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Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-131 *10 July 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Calls For Turkish Withdrawal From Iraq

NC0907141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1342 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—A responsible source at the Arab League Secretariat has condemned the military operation the Turkish forces carried out on Wednesday [5 July], chasing the armed men of the Kurdistan Workers Party into northern Iraq.

In press statements today, the source said that this military operation is considered a clear and frank violation of the sovereignty of an Arab country, Iraq, and interference in its internal affairs—something that violates the principles and regulations of international law and the UN and Arab League Charters.

The source added that the Arab League Secretariat is following the situation at the Iraqi-Turkish border with great concern and calls on the Turkish Government to immediately withdraw all its forces from Iraqi territory. The Turkish Government should also deal with the tension on the borders between Iraq and Turkey through cooperation and dialogue within the framework of the policy of good-neighborliness between the two countries.

Iraqi Envoy Warns Against 'Submission' to U.S. Policy

JN0507162295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1340 GMT 5 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jul (INA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, has stressed that Iraq has offered, and continues to offer sacrifices and support to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people in their quest to attain their full rights and establish their independent state, with its capital in Holy Jerusalem.

In remarks he made at a seminar entitled "Supporting the Arab Charter of Jerusalem," organized today by the Afro-Asian Peoples Organization in cooperation with the Arab League, Najm said that Iraq takes pride in its firm position that rejects the suspect capitulationist schemes in the region.

He added that what the Palestine question and Holy Jerusalem are facing is part of the general state of affairs that faces the Arab nation as a result of submission to the foreign aggressor and the weakness of the Arab position vis-a-vis the threats against the Arab nation, especially [words indistinct].

Dr. Nabil Najm warned against continued submission by certain parties to the U.S. policy, which is hostile to the Arab ambitions. This submission, he said, will at the end lead to further weakness and deterioration in the Arab structure and serve the U.S. and Zionist schemes against the Arab territory and resources.

The seminar was attended by political and international figures and several Arab envoys to the Arab League.

League Chief on Arab Justice Court, Israel

NC1007071395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0542 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 10 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has asserted the need to resolve inter-Arab differences and noted that the League is working to establish an Arab court of justice where Arab differences can be resolved in the interests of all Arabs.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, he said the establishment of this court will be discussed at the League's next session in September. He noted that the Arab League Charter includes a clause calling for setting up this court. He added that the draft bylaws for the Arab court of justice will be submitted to the Arab foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

On Arab-European dialogue, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said it has stopped for political reasons but added that we should continue meetings and consultations until some problems impeding this dialogue are removed.

Regarding the Middle East peace process and the announcement a few days ago that an agreement might be reached by 25 July, the Arab League secretary general stated that there can be no cooperation in the region before a just and comprehensive peace is established. He said: There cannot be economic cooperation before peace is established. We are ready to cooperate with Israel after that but we will accept no attempt by Israel to impose its hegemony or control over the Arab world or vice versa. He added: If Israel wants to regard itself as part of the Middle East, then there can be cooperation and dealings. But if it wants to regard itself as part of the United States or Europe, then that is something else.

Envoys Praise Christopher's Stance on Embassy

LD0107191195 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1622 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 1 Jul (SPA) — His royal highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques and doyen of the Arab ambassadors to Washington, sent a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

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In the letter, his highness expressed the support of the Council of Arab Ambassadors for the views expressed by the secretary of state in his address to the Senate's majority leader, Robert Dole, over the latter's suggestion of transferring the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.

His highness Prince Bandar Bin Sultan stressed that any attempts to raise the issue of transferring the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem will have a negative effect on the ongoing peace efforts in the Middle East. He pointed out that the Declaration of Principles stipulates the holding of negotiations to decide the final status of Jerusalem.

His highness expressed his own appreciation and that of the Council of Arab Ambassadors to Washington to President Clinton's stance in supporting the continuation of peace negotiations in the Middle East. He also expressed their gratitude for the relentless efforts exerted by Mr. Christopher personally in order to reach a just and permanent peace in the Middle East.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher had announced that he will advise President Clinton to veto any law the U.S. Congress might pass to transfer the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the city of Jerusalem.

11th Session of Damascus Declaration States Opens

Bahraini Minister Inaugurates Meeting

JN0807132095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1125 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 8 Jul (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah inaugurated here today the work of the 11th session of the Damascus Declaration signatories, which will last two days.

The conferees will discuss several papers, including an Egyptian working paper regarding the efforts that could be made within the framework of the Damascus Declaration to promote solidarity among the eight signatories. They will also discuss the situation in the Arab homeland, inter-Arab ties, and political and economic cooperation among the Declaration signatories.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah delivered an inaugural speech on the occasion. The following is the text of the speech:

It pleases me to welcome you in your country, Bahrain, at the 11th session of the Damascus Declaration signatories. I wish you a good stay in this Arab country, whose amir, government, and people have constantly and from the start upheld joint Arab action. This country will continue to pursue this course under all circumstances.

It is our good luck that we are meeting at a time when the efforts to clear Arab atmospheres are giving rise for optimism and hope. This should push us to close Arab ranks in order to achieve impeccable Arab solidarity. [passage omitted]

Afterward, the opening session turned into a closed session. The first working session will be held this evening.

Bahraini Minister on Second Session

JN0907060695 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0500 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 9 Jul (WAKH) — Foreign Ministers of the states signatory to Damascus Declaration concluded their second working session late last night. During the session, they debated a draft document on the framework of joint Arab action presented by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Following the meeting, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the foreign ministers will continue their debate of this draft document in their third working session this morning and endorse it to be later referred to the heads of the Damascus Declaration states. He added that also during this session a number of topics relating to the situation on the Gulf and Arab scenes were discussed.

The Bahraini foreign minister said the meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries, which opened yesterday morning, is an effort to cleanse the Arab atmosphere. He stressed that the meeting aims to revive and enhance Arab solidarity and ushers in a new era for the Arab nation in terms of cooperation and coordination. He noted that the Damascus Declaration underlines this approach which is considered the springboard for all Arab countries. He added that this approach is based on understanding, confidence, and commitment to positions. He said: The Damascus Declaration is a formula which we hope will prevail in the Arab world.

He added that the draft document on a framework of joint Arab action includes political, economic, and security mechanisms aiming to realize Arab solidarity.

Foreign ministers of Damascus Declaration states are due to hold their third working session this morning to be followed by the closing session of the 11th round of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory states.

Third Session Reported

JN0907090695 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0820 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 9 Jul (WAKH) — Foreign ministers of the countries belonging to the

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Damascus Declaration held a third working session of their 11th round at 1000 today.

The Gulf News Agency has learned that during this session, the foreign ministers will resume their debate of a draft document on a framework of Arab joint action presented by Egypt. Once ratified, the document will be referred to the heads of the Damascus Declaration states. Also during this session, the foreign ministers will discuss the topics listed on the agenda, including the Middle East peace process, the Damascus Declaration states' relations with Iraq and Iran, and cooperation among the Damascus Declaration member states.

The closing session of the 11th round of the Damascus Declaration states' foreign ministers is scheduled to be held at noon today. The final results of the meeting are expected to be announced in a news conference to be held by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah following the closing session, informed sources said.

Ministers Issue Concluding Statement

JN0907141495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 9 Jul 95

["Text" of press release issued at the conclusion of meetings by the foreign ministers of the states signatory to the Damascus Declaration in Manama on 9 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 9 Jul (WAKH)—At the invitation of the State of Bahrain, the foreign ministers of the states signatory to the Damascus Declaration [DD] held their 11th session in Manama on Saturday and Sunday, 10 and 11 Safar 1416 hegira, corresponding to 8 and 9 July 1995.

The session was chaired by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, and attended by:

His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs at the United Arab Emirates;

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic;

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs at the Sultanate of Oman;

His Excellency Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani, foreign minister of the State of Qatar;

His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the State of Kuwait;

and His Excellency 'Amr Musa, foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

The foreign ministers of the DD states commend the warm hospitality with which they were received. They thank His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah for giving them the opportunity to meet with them and to listen to their instructions, which stressed the need to boost the joint Arab action in accordance with the principles and objectives endorsed by the DD.

The DD states foreign ministers voiced their condemnation of the criminal terrorist deed which was aimed against the life of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his delegation on 26 June 1995 in Addis Ababa. They expressed their congratulations to him on his escape from this sinful deed and wished the Egyptian people further progress and prosperity under his leadership.

The ministers also congratulated His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani on his assumption of power in the State of Qatar, wishing his highness, his government, and the people of Qatar further progress and prosperity.

The ministers exchanged views on the means to strengthen cooperation among the DD member states and the role they can play in view of the developments in the Arab and international arenas to preserve the Arab interests.

The ministers stressed the need to promote coordination and cooperation among the DD states with the aim of implementing the Declaration's aims and principles.

Within the context of strengthening the joint Arab action and cooperation among the states signatory to the Declaration, which is considered a basis for action within the framework of the Arab League, the ministers reviewed the document on the framework of joint Arab action. It was agreed to present this document to the governments of the member states for approval. These states will convey their approval to the current chairman, which is the State of Bahrain, provided the Declaration states meet before the next meeting of the Arab League's Ministerial Council, scheduled in September 1995, to review this issue prior to depositing the document with the Arab League General Secretariat.

The ministers reviewed the Middle East peace process developments. Based on the eight countries' keenness on realizing a just and comprehensive peace in the region as a strategic option and the genuine efforts they have made to remove the obstacles crippling the march of peace, the ministers confirmed that this peace should

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be based on international legitimacy, the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 425, the land-for-peace formula, and the Palestinian people's exercise of their political and national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination.

Within this context, they stressed their unwavering support for Syria's just demands and highly regarded its position and serious and steady efforts to ensure the success of the peace process.

The ministers followed up the recent serious signs on the Syrian-Israeli bilateral negotiations track. They called for the achievement of substantial progress that would end the Israeli occupation through full withdrawal from the Arab Syrian Golan Heights back to 4 June 1967 lines. The ministers called for making similar progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track — progress that would put an end to the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon.

The ministers voiced their concern over Israel's continuation of the usurping of Palestinian lands and building settlements in the occupied Arab lands in violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Fourth Geneva Convention. The ministers said they believe that Israel's violation of the letter and spirit of the Palestinian Declaration of Principles jeopardizes the Middle East peace process.

The ministers called on the international community, the peace process cosponsors, and the UN Security Council to implement the relevant resolutions, take all appropriate measures to prevent Israel from effecting any changes in the geographic or demographic features of Jerusalem within its borders as defined prior to 4 June 1967, and ensure Israel's implementation of international legitimacy resolutions on Jerusalem, particularly Security Council Resolution 252.

The ministers renewed their countries' commitment to rendering the Middle East region an area free of all mass destruction weapons, and stressed that this should apply to all countries of the region without exception in accordance with UN resolutions. Hence, they underlined their countries' determination that Israel must join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and place its nuclear installations under the safeguards regime enforced by the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is an inevitable basic step if the Middle East region is to be rendered an area free of all mass destruction weapons, particularly nuclear weapons. This, the ministers agreed, will contribute toward the achievement of equal [mutasawi] and balanced [mutawazin] security and stability in the region.

The ministers also examined Iraq's implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions related to its aggression against the State of Kuwait. They noted that Iraq has not thus far completely fulfilled basic parts of its commitments as enshrined in Resolution 687 and other relevant resolutions, particularly those related to the release of Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees, the returning of property, and commitment to the compensation mechanism. The ministers also stressed the need for Iraq to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 949 by refraining from any provocative or aggressive act that threatens the State of Kuwait and the countries of the region. They regret that the Iraqi Government has rejected Resolution 986 and thus refused to take advantage of the provisions enshrined in it, which are temporary measures aiming to alleviate the Iraqi people's sufferings for which the Iraqi Government is fully responsible, because it rejected Resolutions 706 and 712 of 1991 and Resolution 986 of 1995.

The ministers renewed their full sympathy with the fraternal Iraqi people in their current ordeal. Moreover, they reiterated their full eagerness to safeguard Iraq's unity, and expressed their opposition to policies and measures that are targeted against its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The ministers also reviewed the latest developments in the relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran. They strongly regretted the fact that Iran has not responded favorably to the repeated calls for a peaceful solution, particularly the initiative launched by His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], which called for serious and direct talks to end the Iranian occupation of the three UAE islands of Tunb al-Kubra, Tunb al-Sughra, and Abu Musa in accordance with international law and norms and on the basis of the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect among states.

The ministers renewed their support and backing to the UAE's sovereignty over its three islands, and urged Iran to hold direct talks with the UAE on the status of these islands at the earliest possible opportunity. Meanwhile, they backed the UAE's call for referring the issue to the International Court of Justice if no agreement is reached through dialogue.

The ministers viewed with extreme concern the continuation of the serious security deterioration in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They condemned the Serbs' escalation of their criminal acts and their bombardment of the civilian inhabitants and safe havens in the various parts of the republic and their continued exercise of the policy of ethnic cleansing, which constitutes a serious violation of the basic human rights.

The ministers stressed their support for the decision made by the Organization of Islamic Conference liaison

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group during their meeting on the ministerial level, which called for an urgent extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly to discuss the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ministers also called on the Security Council to take firmer urgent measures to deal with the Serb forces of aggression and force them to stop their practices against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the UN forces, and provide effective protection to safe havens.

They also called for lifting the ban on the export of weapons to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to enable it to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter. They stressed the need to maintain the sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro and to consider reciprocal and simultaneous recognition of all newly-established states in former Yugoslavia as a precondition for the suspension of sanctions.

The ministers expressed their concern over the tragic situation in sisterly Somalia and called on all parties concerned to give priority to their countries' supreme interests and to cooperate with all efforts, headed by those of the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity, in order to establish peace and achieve national reconciliation.

The ministers expressed their concern over bloodletting in Afghanistan and appealed to all Afghan factions to abide by the cease-fire and implement the Mecca agreement for peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan.

The ministers also expressed grave concern over the continued shedding of blood in Chechnya and the increasing number of civilian victims. They renewed their call on the disputing parties to quickly solve their differences through dialogue and negotiations.

The foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration states expressed their profound thanks to the State of Bahrain for the warm hospitality accorded to them and said they look forward to their next meeting in the Syrian Arab Republic in December 1995 in order to continue the march of coordination and consultation among their states.

[Dated] Issued in Manama on 11 Safar 1416 hegira, corresponding to 9 July 1995

Bahraini Minister Comments on Document

JN0907175195 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 9 Jul (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah has said that the 11th meeting of the foreign ministers of the states signatory to the Damascus Declaration was crowned with the approval of a document on the framework of joint Arab action. The meeting concluded its work earlier today. Shaykh Muhammad said the document gives a fresh boost to cooperation among the member states.

In a news conference in Manama this evening, Shaykh Muhammad said that Bahrain views the document as an appreciable achievement because it aims for an Arab order based on commitment to the basic principles of the Arab League.

The Bahraini minister said that the document contains frameworks for political, economic, and security cooperation.

He said that concerning the political aspect of this document, it stresses the importance of coordination, cooperation, and of holding a meeting by the member states' foreign ministers every six months and a periodic meeting by senior officers. He said the security aspect of the document stresses the member states' commitment to the principles of security cooperation, rejection of terrorism, legitimate defense to confront any aggression, and achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah added that the economic aspect of the document stresses the importance of activating trade and economic cooperation and integration, boosting economic and social development on strong economic bases, developing human resources, and laying foundations for the establishment of strong economic cooperation.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that in view of the programs of joint Arab action that it contains, this document will be deposited with the Arab League as proposed principles for the Arab countries to join. He stressed continued commitment to the Damascus Declaration document. Denying reports which talked about an end to the Damascus Declaration, he said that the 11th session, which was concluded in Manama today, will give a fresh boost to Arab cooperation and activate the Damascus Declaration, which is based on the Arab League Charter and is considered part of it.

On the possibility of other Arab states joining the Damascus Declaration, he said that endorsing the document and depositing it with the Arab League is a first step that will be followed by other steps. He said the Damascus Declaration is not a closed grouping, rather, it is a movement that responds to developments and changes. [passage omitted]

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Bahraini Amir Receives Ministers

JN0807195695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 8 Jul (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, and Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah this evening received the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory states and the Gulf Cooperation Council secretary general on the occasion of their visit to Bahrain to attend the 11th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration signatory states which started here today. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-Shar Holds Sideline Meetings

JN0907192595 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 9 Jul (SANA)—On the sidelines of the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers meetings in Manama, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at his residence this morning.

Talks dealt with developments in the Arab arena and bilateral fraternal relations.

Al-Shar' also received Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this morning. Talks dealt with Arab developments and bilateral fraternal relations.

Al-Shar' met with Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs in the United Arab Emirates in Manama yesterday on the sidelines of Damascus Declaration foreign ministers meetings. Talks dealt with the situation in the region and bilateral fraternal relations.

Arab Information Committee Makes Recommendations

NC0407075995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 3 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Jul (MENA)—Following its meetings tonight the Arab Information Standing Committee recommended intensifying the role of Arab information in confronting terrorism and extremism as part of an information plan adopted by the Arab Information Ministers Council. Regarding Arab information's role in confronting this phenomenon, the committee called for following up on new developments and placing the subject on the agenda of the Arab Information Standing Committee to study it. It also recommended confronting attempts on media men by terrorist groups and providing them with better protection so that they can perform their noble tasks in confronting violence and terrorism. It called for honoring the media martyrs who fell in the line of duty.

The committee reviewed the memorandum on this issue submitted by Tunisia and Iraq, a paper submitted by the Sultanate of Oman on its experience in confronting this phenomenon, and a proposal by the Algerian delegation on formulating rules for combating terrorism and extremism.

Amin Basyuni [Arab Information Standing Committee secretary] said the committee also discussed cooperation and coordination in Arab satellite public and private channels to give Arab citizens an Arab alternative to foreign satellite channels to safeguard the national and pan-Arab identity of Arab citizens and link them with their original roots represented in their religious values, history, civilization, culture, and language. [passage omitted]

Regarding the dangers of Jewish immigration to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, the committee recommended that Arab media focus on highlighting the dangers of Jewish immigration, which runs counter to UN resolutions and human charters and laws, increases the danger of settlement and usurping of these territories, and contradicts the peace process. [passage omitted]

Ministers Issue Resolution on 'Terror'

NC0607120295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Jul (MENA)—The Arab information ministers council has reiterated its denunciation of terrorism and extremism and underlined the Arab media's commitment to fight this phenomenon which does not serve stability and development in the Arab world.

This came in the resolutions and recommendations adopted by the council today in Cairo at the conclusion of its 28th session held under Tunisian Secretary of State for Information Fathi Houidi and which lasted two days.

The council decided to back the Arab media and cultural action in the occupied Arab territories as represented in the areas under the Palestinian Authority. It also decided to back Arab information in south Lebanon in support of the inhabitants of south Lebanon.

The council also decided to produce a series on Arab civilization and approved a comprehensive Arab strategy for confronting the challenges of the 21st century in the information field. It also stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination in the use of Arab satellite channels. [passage omitted]

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The council agreed to prepare a study on the so-called information superhighway, the backbone of information.

On Arab issues, the council discussed the issues that apply to Arab interests on which the Arab League Council has made decisions.

The council stressed its solidarity with the Palestinian detainees who started a hunger strike 19 days before. It stressed their right to freedom and a dignified life in their homeland. The council also discussed the Jerusalem issue in addition to other Arab issues.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: No Information on Talks in Rome

LD0907215595 Rome RAI Televideo Teletext in Italian 2129 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] "So far, I have no information regarding talks between the PLO and Israel taking place in Rome. It is only a rumor." This is what 'Arafat said in Gaza, after talks with Victor Klima, Austrian public economy and transport minister.

The meeting that was due to take place today between Uri Savir, director of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Palestinian Economy Minister Ahmad Quray', in order to decide when talks were to resume, was postponed "for technical reasons."

Israeli and Palestinian sources had previously said the talks were to continue in Italy.

Kanafani: No Decision To Move Talks

JN0907063495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian-Israeli talks on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles will resume this week. Ahmad Quray', minister of trade and economy, announced that 25 July is the date fixed for signing the agreement. Quray' also said: What is important for us is the wording and substance of the agreement and not the date on which it is signed.

Within this context, Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, said that the Palestinian National Authority has not made a decision yet on transferring the Palestinian-Israeli talks to a European country. He said this decision will be based on the political talks to be held over the next two days.

Kanafani's remarks came in response to Israeli statements that the Palestinian-Israeli talks are to resume in Italy.

Cabinet Ministers Meet, Comment on Peace Talks

JN0807121295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1140 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in the Gaza Strip]

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority cabinet concluded its weekly session a short while ago. The meeting was held under President Yasir 'Arafat at the presidential headquarters in Gaza today.

The cabinet discussed a number of important issues, including the latest developments in negotiations with the Israeli side on all levels, especially regarding the 25 July deadline, as well as redeployment, holding elections, and transfer of powers to the National Authority in the West Bank. The cabinet also reviewed the outcome of President 'Arafat's recent visits to Switzerland, Greece, and Egypt.

Following the session, Labor Minister Dr. Samir Ghawshah asserted that if all points of disagreement are overcome, then an agreement will be signed by the designated deadline. Ghawshah pointed out that there are still differences over a number of issues, including security issues. He added that Israel is continuing with its policy of procrastination. He stressed that the Palestinian side insists on adhering to one geographic and political jurisdiction.

For his part, Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy, said negotiations with the Israeli side will resume next week. Quray' added: We will not let the 25 July deadline hang over our heads like a sword.

Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the question of prisoners and detainees in the jails of Israeli occupation was raised. He said any agreement must free all prisoners. 'Abd-Rabbuh added that Palestinian legislative elections cannot be held under occupation.

Further on Weekly Cabinet Session

JN0807193095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet held its weekly session chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat this morning.

Following the meeting, Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim told the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, that the president briefed the cabinet on the negotiations taking place on the redeployment and security arrangements, and his meetings with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The president emphasized that the Palestinian priority is the redeployment from the populated areas that

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should precede the Palestinian elections in a manner that ensures general and free elections.

The president stressed that attention should be given to ensure the restoration of the land while understanding the Israeli position on the security issues in the transitional stage without exaggeration and in a manner that ensures the success of implementation of the phased agreement.

The president pointed out the importance of reaching agreement on the stages of other redeployments after the elections and the setting up of the council in a manner that clearly ensures—and in accordance with specific timetables—the restoration by the Palestinian side of all responsibilities, especially in the security field and the restoration of the rest of land to the borders of the Palestinian jurisdiction that was defined by the Declaration of Principles, which encompasses the West Bank and Gaza Strip, except areas related to the final status.

The cabinet stressed that the agreement based on stages and steps should include clear links between the stages in a manner that makes redeployment a process whose start and finish clear in terms of areas covered and the timetable.

The cabinet was astonished by the statements attributed to Israeli officials reported by the Israeli media on the areas of land and agreements on issues that are still under tedious and difficult negotiations, and stressed that the conflicting positions reported by the Israeli media and what has been attributed to these officials do not commit us to anything and do not change our positions. The cabinet stressed that these statements do not serve the current negotiations process.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the cabinet stressed the importance and difficulty of this agreement, and said this necessitates that the two sides should be keen to reach the agreement at the set time and within the framework of Oslo agreement.

'Abd-al-Rahim said the cabinet discussed developments of the subject of refugees, and stressed the need to continue work with all potentials and means, including the negotiations, to release the prisoners. The cabinet expressed the pride of our people, with all their forces and groups, in the heroic steadfastness of the prisoners and their hunger strike that lasted for about three weeks. It stressed that this heroic battle in which all nationalist and popular establishments took part, has pushed the cause of prisoners forward, and shows that the solution to their problem is on top of the issues that a transitional agreement must be reached upon.

The cabinet stressed that our people support all the positions taken by our brother and sister prisoners and that their case is a top priority for the Palestinian negotiators in their negotiations with the Israelis.

The presidency secretary general said: Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat informed the cabinet that the elections committee has received detailed maps of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip which the committee procured from the Palestinian Statistics Department with financing from the EU member sates. He said these maps specify the sites for 1,700 ballot boxes for the Palestinian elections, scheduled to be held after the Israeli forces complete their redeployment to outside the inhabited areas in the West Bank.

'Abd-al-Rahim added: Dr. Nabil Sha'th briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his visit to Qatar at the invitation of his highness the amir. During that visit, Dr. Sha'th delivered a letter from President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, in which he congratulated him on his assumption of powers and informed him of the developments in the Palestine question and the peace talks. Dr. Sha'th was received by His Highness Amir Hamad Bin-Khalifah and the Qatari foreign and finance ministers. He also met with several Palestinian businessmen based in Qatar. During these meetings, Dr. Sha'th discussed Qatar's support for the National Authority and the Palestinian people, as well as joint Qatari-Palestinian investments. It was also agreed that the State of Qatar will open its permanent representation office in Gaza within a month.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added: The cabinet was briefed on the cultural agreement which Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information, signed with Egyptian Culture Minister Dr. Faruq Husni. The cabinet endorsed the agreement since it constitutes an important step to strengthen and improve the Egyptian-Palestinian ties. The cabinet further stressed the importance of developing cultural ties with sisterly Egypt in all fields.

The cabinet also endorsed the cooperation agreement signed between the Palestinian Youth and Sports Ministry and the Tunisian Youth and Children Ministry and the agreement with the Chinese Sports Ministry which was signed by the minister of youth and sports during his recent visit to China.

The cabinet also discussed several domestic issues on its agenda and took the appropriate decisions.

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'Abd-Rabbuh Comments on Session

JN0807153895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1304 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with PA Culture and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by unidentified correspondent; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Abd- Rabbuh, good evening.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Good evening.

[Correspondent] The Cabinet held a session today. What was discussed in this session?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Today we discussed two principal issues: The prisoners and the negotiations on redeployment. In the prisoners issue, we stressed that this issue is a top priority and that any agreement that is reached must ensure the solution of the prisoners issue and their release. In fact, this issue, which was widely supported by the masses as demonstrated by the activities that were held in the past few weeks, is the topic of the hour and all efforts are now directed toward this just cause, without which no one can talk about progress in the political process and the peace process.

The second issue is the redeployment. Clearly, there are some Israeli statements which talk about areas of land, about percentages, and so forth. The aim of these statements is to insinuate that an agreement has been reached. The Authority's Cabinet decided that this matter must be clarified and that, so far, we still do not have any agreement whatsoever. There are still real differences over some basic issues, especially as regards withdrawal from all the inhabited areas so that elections can be held. The Israeli statements talk about withdrawal from certain areas, or a small number of cities, before the elections and completing that withdrawal after the elections. No agreement has been reached over this proposition and it was not accepted at all. We insist on evacuating all the inhabited areas to allow the Authority forces to fulfill their security tasks in these areas and ensure that the elections are held under their supervision.

Another point that concerns redeployment is the issue of the areas outside the towns. It was not agreed that security in these areas should remain under Israel's responsibility. We insist that responsibility for public order and security in these areas must be Palestinian. There are also other, very important points in this regard, such as the state-owned lands and the Authority's responsibility over them, and other issues. We want to have an integrated agreement that is in harmony with the spirit, content, and provisions of the Oslo agreement.

It is now clear that there is an Israeli attempt to formulate a new agreement different from the Oslo agreement. We wanted to make this point clear, and the statement that will be issued on the Cabinet session will include such a clarification.

True, we agreed to set 25 July as the date to arrive at an agreement, and intensive efforts are required to ensure that this date is respected. The date is not the principle thing. The principle thing is that the agreement must be in harmony with, and responds to what is required; that is, the agreement that will ensure the evacuation of the inhabited areas, the Palestinian Authority [PA] control, and preparations for free general elections, to be held under the Authority's supervision and, certainly, under international supervision.

[Correspondent] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, there is an assumption that you hide information from the masses. We hear information from the Israeli media on an agreement. What is exactly the agreement on the elections, prisoners, and redeployment?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I frankly say—and it is not my or our habit to hide anything—that so far, there is no agreement at all. Meetings and negotiations were held last week. I clearly defined the points of disagreement. They are represented in the authority's responsibility, the withdrawal in the first phase before the elections from all populated areas—the cities, villages, and camps—so that we will be able to hold free elections within the occupation's presence. Thus far, no agreement has been reached on this subject. The Israeli position is clear; it wants to make a limited withdrawal from some cities, and maintain the security control in the areas outside the cities. Sometimes, they try to hint that there is agreement on such a plan. They spoke about figures and percentages—sometimes 18 or 28 percent. We do not look for percentages, we look for responsibilities; a basic responsibility for all populated areas as a first stage before elections; and a responsibility for the state-owned land by the authority. All these issues were presented in the negotiations. I am sorry to say that so far there is no result. Therefore, I spoke cautiously about the 25 July deadline. It should be clear, and this was emphasized at the authority's meeting today, that what some Israeli media organs and some Israeli statements say are totally baseless and their aim is to create a deceptive atmosphere. I stress a deceptive atmosphere, and perhaps a pressuring atmosphere on the Palestinian negotiator on the one hand, and on the Palestinian masses on the other.

[Correspondent] But there is talk about an agreement on releasing prisoners on two batches, one before the elections, and another after the elections?

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['Abd-Rabbuh] We did not agree on this in a clear manner. We emphasized the need for releasing all prisoners in accordance with a timetable. Frankly, we do not want to attach the subject of prisoners to the agreement. This subject should be resolved as an issue that had been agreed upon in the past. There is no need to delay discussing the subject of prisoners and releasing them until reaching the agreement so that the subject will be clear. The Israeli side presented some figures. We do not want to discuss figures, we want to discuss issues. This means releasing prisoners without discrimination or conditions, and not speaking about mere figures on prisoners who have probably ended their sentence terms or whose imprisonment is about to end. We do not accept this, and we insist on discussing the subject of prisoners from a principled point of view, and we view all prisoners as equals and sons of the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] Thanks to Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, minister of culture and information.

['Abd-Rabbuh] Thank you.

Al-Husayni Against Accord Giving 18% of W. Bank

TA0707100195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 95 p A1

[Report by Ori Nir and Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, who has the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian Authority [PA], and is a Fatah leader in the West Bank, yesterday called on PA members negotiating with Israel not to sign an agreement which gives the Palestinians responsibility for only 18 percent of the West Bank.

At a Jerusalem news conference, al-Husayni responded to reported remarks yesterday by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres that the Palestinians could be disappointed when they learn that under the interim agreement they will become responsible for no more than 18 percent of the West Bank's territory.

Al-Husayni noted that if the remarks attributed to the foreign minister are correct, "it will lead to disaster in the entire region." He added: "I call on all the Palestinian negotiators to take Peres' remarks seriously and not to allow such an agreement (to be signed)."

The foreign minister and Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir began to issue conciliatory messages several days ago in view of the angry Palestinian reactions to the agreement. According to these messages, Israel will agree to consider transferring to the Palestinians state lands on the West Bank within the framework of an interim accord.

In internal discussions, Savir claimed that the Palestinians will receive control over 30 percent of the West Bank, and not 18 percent, as they believe. Peres fears that the Palestinians will cause a crisis in the negotiations over the wording of the detailed interim agreement, especially over control of traffic. In his view, they will find it hard to accept the demand that all travel by the Palestinian Police has to have the prior approval of the 'DF [Israel Defense Forces].

Working groups will start next week to iron out the points still in dispute in the interim accord. One committee will deal with the detailed wording of the security arrangements and others will search for a way to hold elections in Hebron.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will meet today with the foreign minister and members of the negotiating team prior to the start of the final stage of the discussions on the interim arrangement.

Public Angered by Peres' Remarks on Returning 18%

TA0907101095 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jul 95 p A4

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Heavy public pressure is being brought to bear on the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the wake of remarks attributed to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, according to which the areas to be transferred to the PA after the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the West Bank cities will amount to only 18% of the West Bank territory. Many people have sharply criticized the agreement being worked out between Israel and the PA. Because of this public pressure, Palestinian officials expect a toughening in the Palestinian negotiating team's positions vis-a-vis Israel.

The public pressure stems from the fear that the PA representatives will sign a redeployment agreement which fails to meet the minimal Palestinian demands. Palestinian figures yesterday assessed that this pressure has caused the senior PA echelon to prefer conducting the negotiations abroad.

Last Thursday [6 July], after Peres' remarks were made public, Faysal al-Husayni urged the PA not to sign an agreement which awards the Palestinians such scanty achievements.

Al-Husayni's remarks have brought in their wake pressure by many West Bank activists and dignitaries. Sa'id Kan'an, head of the Center for Palestine Research and Studies, says that "Peres' statement sent a shockwave

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through the West Bank. People thought exactly the opposite, that some 82% of the West Bank will be turned over to the Palestinians. Al-Husayni's criticism delivered a blow to 'Arafat. Now the street is pressuring 'Arafat to clarify whether Peres' remarks are true or not."

Kan'an says the Palestinian leadership must issue a clarification in the wake of Peres' remarks. "If it transpires that Peres' remarks are true and that we are going to receive only 18% of the West Bank, the situation on the Palestinian street will be very bad. Peres' remarks came at a most inopportune time, immediately after the prisoners' strike," Kan'an said.

A senior Palestinian official yesterday said the public outrage has increased the displeasure among the PA's negotiators, who feel that "Israel is taking full advantage of the fact that it is the strong party in the negotiations and is thoroughly humiliating the Palestinian side." [passage omitted]

'Abbas Reportedly To Return Gaza, Head Talks

JN1007104395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 27

["Exclusive" report from Ramallah, West Bank]

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO sources said PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, known as Abu-Mazin, will arrive in the Gaza Strip from Tunis on Thursday to permanently settle in Ramallah.

The sources said Abu-Mazin had recently agreed with Yasir 'Aafat, head of the Palestinian National Authority, to return home. This is part of an overall arrangement between Abu-Mazin and 'Arafat after an agreement had been reached on the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Oslo agreement in Gaza last Tuesday.

Abu-Mazin is expected to restore his position as head of the negotiations department, which was assumed during his absence by Nabil Sha'th, official in charge of the planning and international cooperation portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority.

The sources pointed out that Abu-Mazin will continue in his long-held position as chairman of the National and International Relations Department.

'Abd-al-Rahim Denies Plans To Return Abu-al-Za'im to Power

JN0907191995 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 9

[Basil Yasin report from the occupied territories]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MUHARRIR's interview with 'Atallah 'Atallah, known as Abu-al-Za'im, is still triggering various reactions among Palestinian circles. Following Faysal al-Husayni's denial and Abu-al-Za'im's response to it, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, said Abu-al-Za'im's return is not being proposed and is totally baseless. He said Abu-al-Za'im will not return and his case was closed a long time ago. We, he said, have qualified personnel with sufficient experience to get things done.

On Faysal al-Husayni's statements, al-Tayyib said: Al-Husayni spoke responsible words, and criticizing him would be considered a criticism of the Authority.

What is happening on the ground, however, conflicts with al-Tayyib's statement. Recently, a new body was formed in the occupied territories, specifically in the Ramallah area, where Abu- al-Za'im was born. It calls itself "The Abu-al-Za'im Cadres." It wrote graffiti all around the city welcoming his return. Meanwhile, Abu-al-Za'im's son, who returned from Jordan to prepare for his father's return, has been receiving scores of notables and delegations, including officers in the self-rule authority, who have come to express allegiance to Abu-al-Za'im. The question now is: Who can lead us to the truth?

Prisoners End 18-Day Hunger Strike

TA0907071095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The hunger strike by Palestinian security prisoners at three prisons in Israel has ended. The prisons affected are Tel Mond, Beersheba, and Ashqelon. In an announcement, the inmates said they were ending the hunger strike after Palestinian Authority leader 'Arafat and Foreign Minister Peres had reached agreement on the gradual release of prisoners over the next few weeks. A special ministerial committee is to be set up to decide on prisoner releases. The hunger strike had lasted 18 days.

Hamas Denounces Self-Rule Authority, Urges Strike

JN0807174295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denounced the crime, which the 'Arafat authority committed against Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, Shaykh Ahmad Bahr, and Shaykh Salamah al-Safadi. It also called for the release of all prisoners, condemned the 'Arafatist authority's aggressions against the chased Hamas heroes, and urged that authority to stop its oppressive practices.

In a statement issued today, the movement called for solidarity with our jailed heroes and announced its rejection

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of the 'Arafatist authority's practices and its agreements with the occupation authority to discriminate against the prisoners in accordance with their political affiliations. Hamas also denounced the 'Arafat authority for refraining from chasing the agents and committing aggressions against charitable and Islamic institutions.

Hamas also called for a comprehensive strike tomorrow, 9 July, to mark the beginning of the intifadah's 92d month and for considering 18 July a day of distinguished escalation against the occupation soldiers and settlers in expression of our people's rejection of the Zionist settlement projects.

Hamas also called for considering the days of the whole month as days for conducting activities and expressing solidarity with the heroic prisoners and detainees in the jails of the Zionist enemy and the 'Arafat authority and also for demanding their release without any discrimination or bias.

Paris Paper: 'Arafat Target of Addis Ababa Attack

JN0907110195 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] London—AL-MUARRIR—Is it true that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak was not targeted in Addis Ababa operation and that the bullets that showered his motorcade were targeting another leader?

Information that has thus far been made available to British security circles actually confirm that he [Mubarak] was not targeted and that the Egyptian Government is trying to exploit "this mistake" to enhance the stature of the president who failed to curb Islamic movements opposing him.

These circles have disclosed that the information they obtained indicate that the target of the attempt was PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and that the assailants who attacked Mubarak's motorcade in front of the Palestinian Embassy in Addis Ababa thought it was 'Arafat's motorcade because he was expected to stop there en route to the airport which is close to the venue of the conference.

The circles confirmed that the Palestinian cabinet's statement, which revealed an assassination attempt against 'Arafat and two Arab leaders in Addis Ababa, was hinting that 'Arafat, and not Mubarak, was targeted. The circles argue that the reason why the cabinet statement gave no further details was to appease the Egyptian regime — which tries to show that it is targeted by Islamic fundamentalism in the region on the eve of the U.S. Congress debate of the $2 billion annual U.S. aid to Egypt in a bid to bring it down it in line with a new Republican austerity policy.

The British circles add that the death of three assailants during the operation and the Ethiopian authorities announcement, five days later, of the death of other three fugitives "without taking captives" cast doubt on Egypt's seriousness about rounding up "the conspirators" to interrogate them and know their motives and goals. Following the announcement that one of the seven assailants was apprehended after shooting him, Egyptian statements released last week suddenly went back on their earlier accusations that this person was "the group's leader and mastermind."

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Algeria

French Report Links Iran, Algiers Suicide Operations

LD0807212195 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Since the recent arrest operations carried out by the French police among Islamist circles in France, it has been established that there are powerful networks among the Algerian extremist groups indirectly serving Iran.

In its recent issue, the magazine L'EXPRESS says that it has been established by those who are specialized in combating terrorism that the Iranian secret service has been the main manipulator of the armed Islamist groups. The magazine adds that this secret service has for the past year been selecting and training terrorist groups in Germany and France.

The L'EXPRESS report confirms that there is a relationship between the Iranian secret service and the suicide operations which have taken place in the capital Algiers, like the Amirouche Street operation and the hijacking of the French Airbus plane.

Prime Minister Sifi, Libya's al-Qa'ud Talk

LD0907205095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, secretary for the General People's Committee of the brotherly Libya, arrived at Houari Boumediene airport this evening. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud was accompanied by an important government delegation of 12 secretaries' committees.

The aim of the visit is to participate in the 9th session of the Algeria-Libyan Executive Committee, culminating the end of the experts' meeting that took place at Djinan el-Mithak residence.

On arrival, 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud made the following statement:

[Begin al-Qa'ud recording] It is an honor for me and for my colleagues, the secretaries at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee, to be here in Algeria to meet our brothers and colleagues, his excellency the prime minister, and the ministers within the framework of the 9th session of the higher joint Libyan-Algerian Executive Committee. I also carry the greetings of brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for his brother, his excellency President Liamine Zeroual.

Lined up are a number of cooperation aspects in the fields of energy, joint exploitation of gas, development of common areas between the two countries, industry, financial, and banking. [end recording]

This evening Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi held talks with his Libyan counterpart 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud on bilateral cooperation and means of bolstering them. [passage omitted]

Algerian ministers of interior, communications, justice, industry and energy, labor, housing, health, equipment, education, and vocational training also held talks with their counterparts from the Great Jamahariyah.

The meetings come before concluding the final draft of the minutes of the working committee that was set up yesterday. These minutes will be endorsed by the Executive Committee in its 9th session starting tomorrow morning.

Dembri Makes Statement

LD0907225095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi held talks with the secretary for the General People's Committee 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud at the el-Mithak residence this evening. [passage omitted]

Following the talks, Minister of Foreign Affairs Salah Dembri made the following statements for Channel 1:

[Begin Dembri recording] There are a number of political issues the heads of governments have to talk about, particularly those regarding the coordination of efforts in building the Arab Maghreb. This was an opportunity for the Foreign Ministry to present the final outcome to the heads, and at the same time present the issues which require their recommendations and guidance, particularly in connection with economic integration.

The other point of the talks is the current proceedings of the joint committee. As you know, this is the second meeting after Benghazi's, which took place last year between the heads of the governments. We feel that coordination between Libya and Algeria is progressing very well in all fields. There are projects in all ministerial sectors. I think the ideas and the proposals which have been presented will be dealt with tomorrow in a direct session between the heads of the governments with the attendance of all ministers.

The recent outcome indicates that the Libyan-Algerian coordination is a strategic one and is proceeding according to the same methods derived from the spirit of Hassi Massaoud charter, i.e. first we build an integrated economy in order to reach political unity one day. [end recording]

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FIS-Government Mediator Released From Custody

LD0907200195 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Still on Algeria with the release of Shaykh Slimani, the main current mediator between the regime and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

He was arrested on Monday [3 July] evening at his home in Medea. He was released today. We still do not know the reason for his arrest.

Parties Banned From Holding Human Rights Meeting

LD0907195095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A political battle over human rights is being fought in Algeria. The authorities have in fact refused to allow eight opposition parties to hold a day's event on human rights in Algiers.

The eight parties concerned are those which had signed the Rome agreement.

Human Rights Urged as School Subject

LD0907190595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The proceedings of the international human rights organizations on democracy and peace, which was organized by the National Human Rights Monitoring Group and the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, ended at Aurassi hotel this afternoon.

In the concluding speeches, most of the speakers focused on the need not to ignore human rights principles that are agreed upon internationally, regardless of the situation. It was agreed that similar meetings are to be held in the future to continue the debate on this issue that some attendants see as a key for resolving various crisis. [passage omitted]

Bachir Boudjmaa, The secretary general of the Algerian League for the Defense of Human Rights, said that when the prime minister received the participants of this conference he was sensitive to the League's demand to include human rights as a subject in various education stages.

Radio Reports 46 'Terrorists' Killed 2-7 Jul

LD0907095995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Forty-six terrorists were killed by the security forces between 2-7 July. Seven of them were killed in an operation carried out by the security forces in the center of Constantine on 6 July.

Security Services Report 64 'Terrorists' Killed

LD0807201395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said today that the security forces have succeeded in eliminating 64 terrorists in the provinces of Boumerdes, the capital Algiers, Constantine, Oran, Blida, Jijel, Chlef, Aid Defla, Batna, Mila, and Skikda.

During these operations, the security forces succeeded in recovering a quantity of weapons and ammunition.

Egypt

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo, Holds Talks With Musa

NC0707182495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit to Egypt. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a round of talks with the Palestinian president upon the latter's arrival. The talks discussed developments on the Palestinian issue and the results of the Israeli-Palestinian talks on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, particularly regarding the redeployment of Israeli troops, the elections, and the transfer of powers to the Palestinians.

In an arrival statement, the Palestinian president stated that an announcement had been made on a joint communique [with the Israelis], and if all takes place as hoped for, an agreement should be concluded on 25 July. He added that three committees are now working on the matter, one in Cairo and two in Palestine. 'Arafat said the biggest problem is the failure to implement the agreed-upon issue of redeployment and withdrawal from populated areas. This is in preparation for elections and the transfer of powers in the remaining West Bank areas.

'Arafat said Israel's announcement that an agreement was reached to begin the withdrawal in October and to hold the elections three weeks later was not accurate.

Musa on Talks

NC0707205195 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following his talks with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat this evening, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that President Husni Mubarak

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and Palestinian President 'Arafat spoke on the telephone. He added that he had briefed President Mubarak on the results of the Egyptian-Palestinian talks, noting that there is a possibility for concluding a Palestinian-Israeli agreement on the target date of 25 July.

The foreign minister added that he will keep in contact with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and President 'Arafat in this regard.

'Arafat Departs Cairo

NC0807064695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for home after a two-day visit to Egypt.

In Cairo yesterday, 'Arafat telephoned President Husni Mubarak and briefed him on the outcome of the Palestinian-Israeli talks.

Also, 'Arafat and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held consultations on the implementation of the second phase of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The Palestinian president was seen off at the airport by Minister of Manpower and Employment Ahmad al-'Amawi, a representative from the Presidential Office, and members of the Palestinian Embassy in Cairo.

Further Reportage on Egypt-Sudan Tensions

Plan 'To Overthrow' al-Bashir Reported

NC0707122295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Intensive contacts are currently under way between U.S. officials and Sudanese opposition figures to implement an urgent plan to overthrow the ruling regime in Sudan led by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. On Thursday [29 June] a delegation from the U.S. State Department and the U.S. National Security apparatus left for an African (non-Arab) capital, where they met Sudanese opposition leaders. The conferees discussed a U.S. plan prepared at the beginning of this year to overthrow the Sudanese regime. The plan was previously submitted to Cairo but the Egyptian Government rejected it and asked the U.S. Government not to cause disturbances that could heighten tension in the region.

Al-Baz Opposes Conflict Escalation

NC0707134295 Paris AFP in English 1244 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, July 7 (AFP) — Egypt opposes an escalation of the conflict with Sudan and wants Khartoum to adopt the same line, an advisor to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said on a visit to Greece on Friday [7 July].

"We are first awaiting the results of investigations in Addis Ababa and second to see the attitude of the Sudanese government," the advisor, 'Usama al-Baz, told AFP following a meeting with Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias.

"We hope that Sudan will not provoke an escalation because that is in nobody's interest," al-Baz said, underlining that Sudan has made "several threatening declarations that are dangerous for both countries."

The advisor said he wanted the Ethiopian Government to cooperate with Egyptian authorities in providing all the information they have on the attempted assassination of Mubarak in Addis Ababa late last month.

Al-Baz said Wednesday that "Sudan perhaps played a role, not in the execution but in helping and encouraging" the would-be assassination claimed by Egyptian fundamentalists.

Al-Baz arrived Thursday in Athens and met Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, who is also visiting the Greek capital.

Egypt "can help remove obstacles arising at a crucial phase in the peace process" of the Middle East, a Palestinian source said following the meeting.

The source also strongly denounced a press campaign launched in the Iranian media against Egypt following the attempted assassination of Mubarak, which lent support to the assailants.

"This is bad for Iran and for Islam," al-Baz said.

He was due to leave Cairo later Friday.

Parallels Between Iraq, Sudan Viewed

NC0707201095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1740 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Commentary by Ahmad Sha'ban: Saddam, al-Bashir, and the Great Destruction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The recent sympathies expressed and the meetings held between the ruling regimes in Baghdad and Khartoum confirm their similarities. They also confirm the empathy between the

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regimes that led to their regional and international isolation. This isolation was the result of the Baghdad and Khartoum regimes' actions showing that they coveted the rights of their brothers and neighbors. Further, the rulers Saddam and al-Bashir have the same bloody disposition.

The consequences of these actions have brought nothing but ruin and destruction to the two countries' people and subjected them to suffering in all aspects of their lives, including food and livelihood.

Due to wanting the resources of fraternal and neighborly Kuwait, the Baghdad regime forgot, or pretended to forget, the rights of neighbors, the ties of religion and language, and its affiliation to the Arab League. It launched its treacherous invasion and ignored all the sincere Arab attempts, notably President Husni Mubarak's messages to Iraq's ruler. But the latter did not listen to the voice of reason. Thus, destruction was inflicted on Iraq and its people, who continue to suffer from the negative results of this aggression against the fraternal neighbor.

For the same reason, wanting the resources of a fraternal neighbor, al-Turabi's ruling front in Khartoum persisted in fabricating problems and crisis with Egypt. The objective is to slice off part of Egypt's soil, Hala'ib. All legal and geographical evidence shows this is Egyptian land, as Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated. Now, we should point out a difference in the Baghdad and Khartoum regimes' behavior. Due to its military and human resources, Baghdad invaded Kuwait. But Khartoum resorted to provocations, including occasionally harassing Egyptian patrols operating in the region, because it knows Egyptian capabilities. This harassment occurred few days ago and caused casualties on both sides. It also intensified the crisis in the area.

These, briefly, are the positions the ruling regimes in Baghdad and Khartoum take on the neighbors and brothers. These positions have left them in a state of suffocating isolation. The Baghdad regime disagrees with all its neighbors. It disagrees with the Gulf Cooperation Council states. Some might say that Qatar and the Sultanate of Oman have some type of contacts with Iraq. However, both countries state that there cannot be normal relations unless Iraq implements all the Security Council resolutions passed after the liberation of the war with Kuwait. Therefore, this does not mean that relations exist. This regime's isolation is confirmed by the absence of relations between Iraq's ruler and its fraternal neighbor Syria. This is because of Iraq's crimes against it. The same applies to most of the Arab countries that say Iraq has no place among its brothers if it does not implement the UN resolutions.

Regarding the ruling regime in Sudan, its relations with its neighbors are getting worse. Since al-Turabi-al-Bashir took power in Sudan, disputes between Sudan and Egypt, Eritrea, Uganda, and other neighboring countries have worsened, despite the many attempts made by African brothers to contain these problems.

This is the state of isolation imposed by Iraq's ruler and Sudan's Islamic front on their people. If we look at the two regimes' bloody and terrorist natures, we see that very few months, and even days, pass without hearing about wholesale executions without trial of a number of Iraqis in Baghdad and a number of Sudanese in Khartoum. In its first months in power, the al-Bashir regime launched the wholesale executions of more than 20 senior Sudanese officers. The wholesale executions without trial have continued since this front took power in Sudan. The same thing happened in Iraq; wholesale executions have continued. The latest executions were carried out few days ago in the wake of the recent rebellion in the Abu Ghurayb area near Baghdad. Some 150 military personnel were executed, including Republican Guards members.

The ruling regimes in Baghdad and Khartoum are holding the shovel of destruction and ruin. They believe that they can harm brothers and neighbors. But reality shows that this shovel of destruction is inflicting ruin and destruction on them. Their people are in a state of semi-starvation from the policy of destruction and terrorism pursued by the two regimes. The negative consequences are affecting the fraternal people in Iraq and Sudan.

Sudanese 'Terrorist' Connection Revealed

NC0807085095 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 14-16, 76

[Report by 'Izzat Badawi: "Al-Turabi Is the Number One Defendant, and Here Are the Proof and Facts"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] All evidence and indications confirm the involvement of the Sudanese regime in the Addis Ababa crime. Al-Turabi is the prime suspect for orchestrating it, according to the proof and leads revealed by the Higher State Security Prosecution's interrogation of a group of terrorists returning from Sudan, as well as the arms cache seized in Kawm Umbu two weeks ago.

In light of the interrogation, the defendants' confessions, and the prosecutors' field inspection of the tracks and routes extending for more than 700 km in the Nubian desert to the Egyptian-Sudanese border, the involvement of al-Turabi's and al-Bashir's regime in this cowardly act is indisputably proved.

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Counselor Hisham Saraya, public attorney at the Higher State Security Prosecution office, emphasizes that the interrogation of a group of terrorists who returned from Afghanistan and Sudan—Case No. 234 of 1995—reveals in detail the activity of the terrorists in the terrorist camps of Sudan, which are called "farms"; the military training in combat methods they received there; their plans to infiltrate Egypt to carry out their terrorist operations; and the generous pay for each operation they carry out.

The interrogation also revealed the Sudanese regime's role in supplying the terrorists with the most advanced weapons and explosives and smuggling them into Egypt for terrorist operations inside the country. This was confirmed by the prosecutors' field inspection last week of desert tracks on the border between Egypt and Sudan to track down the source of the weapons seized from secret stores accumulated by terrorists in Kawm Umbu. The Russian-made weapons are identical to the weapons used in the assassination attempt against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa, which proves beyond doubt that Sudan is the main supplier of these weapons, particularly since they are all brand new weapons meant for army use.

In their confession to Ashraf al-'Ashmawi, first district attorney of the Higher State Security Prosecution, four terrorists provided further proof of the involvement of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime. They admitted having received military training on combat methods since 1991 in six camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan set up by leading terrorists from the al-Jihad Group and the Islamic Group. They are the al-Qadisiyah, al-Khilafah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Caliphate], Jawir, Sayda, Suhayb, and Kunar [name as received] camps. They confessed that the ongoing training of members of the terrorist groups, which is taking place at the Kunar camp in Afghanistan under the supervision of a man named Shaykh Jamil al- Rahman, is financed by some rich Arabs, chief among them being Usamah Bin-Ladin. There, they received training from a group of Swedish and American experts on combat methods, using all types of weapons, from 1992 to the end of 1994, when they moved to Sudan. Following the end of the Afghan war, the Egyptian terrorist leaders in Afghanistan, led by Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, started to leave Peshawar for Jalalabad to live under the protection of Afghan religious leader Hekmatyar. These leaders panicked after Afghan President Rabbani's visit to Cairo last year, which prompted them to move to some European and African capitals. The command center of the Islamic Group was moved to the information office set up by leading group member Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim in Copenhagen, where he assumed the role of the official spokesman of the group and was put in charge of coordination and contacts among the members of that office.

The role of the Sudanese regime and al-Turabi's front emerged during a meeting held by the Islamic Group's leaders in Afghanistan at the end of 1994. The meeting was attended by the following four members of the Group's shura [consultative] council: Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, Mustafa Hamzah, Ahmad Mustafa Nawwarah, and Rifa'i Ahmad Tahah. The conferees agreed to transfer the military training camps of the Egyptian extremist groups from Afghanistan to Sudan.

Terrorist Zakariya Bashir, a returnee from Sudan who is being interrogated by the Higher State Security Prosecution Office with the knowledge of Chief Prosecutor 'Ali al-Hawwari, said that when the Pakistani authorities tightened the noose around the movement and training courses of the extremist Islamic groups in Peshawar the Group's leaders decided to look for a safe place to conduct training.

During the meeting, Mustafa Hamzah confirmed that the Sudanese authorities and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi supported the activities of these groups and welcomed them to Sudan. The Sudanese authorities and the Islamic Front are prepared to give all necessary facilities to the Group and to provide them with training camps, military instructors, and the weapons needed for their operations.

In his confession, Zakariya said that Mustafa Hamzah said during the meeting that Sudan is the best place for the Group's members to enjoy full freedom, particularly since there are many secure military camps. Accordingly, the Group's members were instructed to leave for Sudan. Under the supervision of Hasan al-Turabi, fugitive terrorist Mustafa Hamzah was put in charge of the members' affairs.

In his detailed confessions, Zakariya Bashir said that upon his arrival in Khartoum with his colleagues Sakhr and Miqdad, he discovered that Mustafa Hamzah's information about Sudan was true. Zakariyah said that he used three apartments in Khartoum within a period of 15 days, including a huge one on al-Ghabah Street. The huge apartment is called "the big house." There were 65 returnees from Afghanistan in this house. He said that he spent two days there and then he was moved to another apartment together with Muhammad Mahmud al-Fararji. Al-Fararji was recently killed during a raid on his group at an apartment in Madinat Sittah Uktubar following his return from Sudan.

Zakariya went on to reveal more about the role being played by the Sudanese regime and al-Turabi in helping the terrorists who return from Sudan. In his intriguing

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confessions before the prosecution, Zakariya said that he and his colleague al-Fararji were instructed to move to a farm 15 km north of Khartoum that belongs to one of the Group's members. This farm has an area of 15 feddans. No one knows why it is called a farm or what is planted there. However, it was revealed that 15 of the returnees were there and a man named Haytham was in charge of the training. They were trained in how to prepare electric circuits for detonating explosives and how to make hand grenades and explosives. They were also trained on all kinds of combat. Haytham was assisted by Ahmad Hasan 'Abd-al- Jalil, a.k.a. "the Professor," who was killed in Nubah as he was trying to infiltrate into Egypt.

The returnees were also trained to forge identities, birth certificates, military service documents, and passports. The training period in this camp was two months. They were visited by fugitive terrorist Mustafa Hamzah. They pretended to be farmers to deceive the neighboring farmers. [passage omitted]

The conclusive evidence and facts do not stop with the fascinating revelations by the terrorists about the role of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime in the Addis Ababa conspiracy. There prosecutors' interrogation of the group of terrorists returning from Sudan has provided more evidence, which was exclusively revealed to AL-MUSAWWAR. The interrogation conducted under the supervision of Counselor Saraya revealed that three leading fugitive terrorists abroad: Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of the al-Jihad Organization; Mustafa Hamzah, a leading official in the Islamic Group who resides in Sudan; and Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, who was sentenced to death in 1992 in the "Returnees from Afghanistan" case and who as a member of the Shura Council of the Islamic Group worked as an adviser to Hekmatyar during the Afghan war. By invitation of al-Turabi, the three met in Khartoum in March, despite what is being said about disputes and struggles over the leadership of the terrorist group in Egypt. The Sudanese regime and al-Turabi prepared for their meeting, which was also attended by leaders of the al-Jihad group.

During the meeting, three basic issues were discussed: The need to unify their efforts and activities following the effective blows dealt to their elements inside Egypt by the Egyptian security forces, something that paralyzed their movement; coordination in their terrorist operations both inside and outside Egypt to respond to the Egyptian security forces' blows, and the need to determine their needs for weapons and money in the next stage.

It seems that the meeting of the fugitive terrorist leaders in Khartoum in March was not for that purpose alone, but was also closely related to what happened in Addis Ababa last week. All indications are that the preparations and planning for the assassination attempt against President Mubarak started in March. The invitation from al-Bashir and al-Turabi to the three leading terrorists to come to the secret meeting in Khartoum proves beyond any doubt the role of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime in this crime, for which there was coordination among al-Turabi's men, Sudanese intelligence services, and the extremist leaders hosted by Khartoum for that purpose. [passage omitted]

During the interrogations of the principal defendant by Usamah Qandil and Hani Burhan, chief prosecutors at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, he revealed several facts and pieces of evidence which confirm Sudan's involvement. It should be recalled that the interrogations were held only two days before the Addis Ababa incident.

The terrorist leader, who is charge of the arms depots, has admitted that all the seized weapons came from Sudan. The weapons were brought in plastic sacks bearing the inscription "The Sudanese Sugar Company." Ahmad Hasan 'Abd-al-Jalil, the Professor, instructed him to burn the sacks after removing the weapons and packing them in plastic barrels. He also instructed him to bury the weapons and explosives in the warehouses to hide the identity of the source.

In his confessions, the principal defendant said that the weapons are transferred by members of al-Turabi's Front from Khartoum to the Egyptian border via desert tracks which they know very well. Sometimes the Islamic Front's leaders instruct ordinary Sudanese citizens who reside north of Khartoum and who are aware of the desert tracks to move the weapons to the Egyptian borders for large sums of money. In his intriguing confessions, the defendant said that al-Turabi's Front is helping the brothers—meaning the terrorists—by smuggling them into Sudan and finding them places of residence in Khartoum or in training camps in farms north of Khartoum. [passage omitted]

The official in charge of the terrorist arms depots revealed that the al-Turabi-led Sudanese Salvation Front bears all the expenses for the transfer of the weapons and explosives to Egypt. The value of the consignment which was seized in the warehouses is 150,000 Egyptian pounds, while the cost of shipping the weapons from Khartoum and storing them in Kawm Umbu is estimated at 100,000 pounds. This is in addition to the rent paid to the owners of the farms used for this purpose. In other words, the total expenses were 500,000 pounds. [figures as published]

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The terrorist revealed a new surprise which confirms al-Turabi's role and involvement. The terrorist admitted that one of the Sudanese Front's officials managed to smuggle three leaders of the Islamic Group's military wing into Sudan three months ago. This front official came to the Group's hideout in the Nubian desert, the Kawm Umbu center, where he received the three prominent Group leaders. The Front official phoned me to say that the three had arrived safely at a farm north of Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Musa on Border With Sudan

NC0807153895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 8 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said the Arab world's extremist terrorists are causing great damage to Islam and the Islamic civilization. Further, they are distorting Islam and Islamic societies before the rest of the world.

In an interview with the YEMEN TIMES to be published on 10 July, Musa stated that in their blind attempts to make political gains, the terrorists are behaving badly and are forfeiting our true, civilized Islamic values.

He added that Egyptians will not be satisfied until all the details of the criminal incident President Husni Mubarak was subjected to in Addis Ababa are revealed; until those who carried out, organized, planned, and supplied the equipment for the attack are found.

He pointed out three things that the Addis Ababa operation revealed: One, that the head of state, in an unprecedented incident, was the target of an assassination attempt in another country; two, that the operation was part of an extensive plan to destabilize Egypt; and, three, that terrorism is the tool that fundamentalists use to terrorize and scare individuals and communities, to forcibly impose their schemes on the people.

In his interview with the YEMEN TIMES, 'Amr Musa said the Egyptian people will not submit to terrorist and extremist efforts and schemes.

Regarding developments on the Hala'ib problem, 'Amr Musa said there is no problem between the Egyptian and Sudanese people, pointing out that Egypt considers its southern borders to extend into Africa, through the heart of Sudan. It also believes that Sudan's northern borders extend to the shores of the Mediterranean, through the heart of Egypt.

'Amr Musa said Sudanese authorities continue instigating crisis in Hala'ib, which is within the Egyptian borders at the 22nd latitude, whenever they have internal problems to cope with.

Answering a question on economic reforms in Egypt, Musa stated that Egypt succeeded in implementing the economic reform program. There has been much investment in the fields of industry, education, agriculture, transport, and communications. Further, the success is evident by looking at the high-quality products, the heavy industry, and the reform processes in agriculture, facilities, and services.

Musa: 'No Need for Mediation'

NC0807161295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 8 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said there is no need for mediation between Egypt and Sudan if intentions are honest and Sudan's present policy ends—a policy that worries and disturbs the African, Arab, and Islamic states.

Musa stated today in Manama that Egypt will not change its policy toward Ethiopia until after the conclusion of the Ethiopian authorities' investigations into the sinful attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa on 26 June.

Musa added that the Damascus Declaration countries' meeting plays a major role in bolstering and supporting the Middle East peace process.

Source: Sudan 'Link' in Mubarak Attack

NC0807155895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—An official source in the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] in Cairo has reported that Lieutenant Colonel Mirghani Idris, deputy director of Sudan's foreign security organization, visited Ethiopia frequently in the past three months. This was due to many security-related tasks he was performing in Addis Ababa for the Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF].

The DUP source told MENA that Yusuf Sa'id, a Sudanese merchant who lives in Addis Ababa and an NIF activist, is the link between the NIF and the foreign security organization. He is considered one of the most dangerous people in Addis Ababa. He finances the foreign security organization and is a close friend of Lt. Col. Mirghani.

The DUP source, who recently arrived in Cairo from Khartoum, added that Yusuf Sa'id was seen attending a meeting in Khartoum's al-Riyad district shortly before the assassination attempt against President Husni

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Mubarak. Also present at the meeting were Major General Muhammad Ahmad al-Turabi, director of the Sudanese local security agency; Brigadier General al-Fatih 'Urwah, minister at the Sudanese Presidential Palace and special adviser to Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir; and Lt. Col. Mirghani Idris. Al-Fatih 'Urwah is one of the main suspects in helping to airlift the Falasha Jews to Israel in 1985.

Yusuf Sa'id owns a house in Khartoum's al-Manshiyah neighborhood. This is also where al-Turabi lives.

AL-AHRAM on al-Turabi's 'Terrorism'

NC0807094395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0502 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has confirmed that there are numerous documents and much evidence showing that the government of Hasan al-Turabi's Front in Sudan has become a center for harboring, breeding, and exporting terrorism.

In an article published in AL-AHRAM today, Ibrahim Nafi', AL- AHRAM's chief editor, says al-Turabi's motives for such acts can be explained by those who know al-Turabi's character. They prove that he is suffering from many complexes caused by numerous weaknesses. This shapes his style, which has always been characterized by wickedness and a tendency toward conspiracy along with an inability to engage in open confrontation.

Nafi' adds that when he was planning to seize power in the 30 June 1989 coup, al-Turabi felt that he should have ways to harm, threaten, and pressure other countries, especially his neighbors. He wanted to weaken them so that he could find in these countries fertile soil to disseminate his clumsy ideas.

Nafi' publishes three pictures showing al-Turabi's involvement in harboring terrorism. The first is a photograph of a forged Sudanese diplomatic passport used by Tunisian oppositionist Rached Ghannouchi, under the name Rashad Muhammad Sa'id, together with some official letters from the Sudanese Foreign Ministry to facilitate his international movements.

The second picture shows a photocopy of a letter addressed to the Sudanese Armed Forces from the "al-Hijrah" Company, established by Usamah Bin-Ladin, "who is known for financing terrorism" in Sudan. The letter deals with facilitating residence in Sudan for opposition figures brought in by the company from abroad and training them in terrorist camps.

The third example discloses coordination of terrorist movements from Sudan to Ethiopia and other countries in order not to reveal their link with Sudan. The methods include not stamping their passports when they leave Khartoum so any link between them and Sudan could be denied if they were caught in terrorist operations outside Sudan.

Nafi' concludes that there could be no clearer evidence than this of the al-Turabi-al-Bashir regime's collusion and its support for and protection of terrorism. He emphasizes that patience has its limits and that every tolerant person beyond which he cannot go.

Paper Criticizes Sudanese Regime

NC0907070495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0502 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-AHRAM has emphasized that the unequivocal evidence of the Sudanese regime's corruption enhances the honest brothers' conviction that getting rid of this regime has become a primary national cause, especially after the conclusive evidence confirming its total involvement in terrorist acts.

The paper asks how the regime explains its harboring the world's most ferocious terrorists and supporting terrorism on the pretext that it is carrying out the task of establishing Islam and achieving the alleged Islamic internationalism.

In its editorial today, it notes that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime has often claimed that it is the savior of the oppressed and that it is leading Sudan toward a new era. But this, the paper adds, is utterly refuted by the facts of the real situation that are confirmed by the serious decline in the Sudanese economy.

The paper says that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime has often sold illusions to the helpless Sudanese people until they reached the stage of international isolation which deprived Sudan of aid and caused the spread of illiteracy and disease.

Sudan's Silence Questioned

NC0907211195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)— The newspaper AL-AHRAM says that even though the al-Bashir regime is known to the whole world as being very talkative, we have not heard it say anything more than 48 hours after the publication of secret Sudanese documents exposing its sponsorship of terrorism, encouragement of terrorists, and opening of centers in Sudan to train saboteurs on how to cause instability and panic innocent people; wasting the Sudanese people's wealth for all this.

In an editorial in its Monday [10 July] issue, the paper says that none of the ruling Sudanese regime's members

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can claim that a single one of the more than ten official secret documents published in AL-AHRAM is false. The paper confirms that the evidence against them is their own secret documents which they wrote with their own hands and which bear their signatures and seals. It is God's will to reveal their terrorism so that we can deal with them. They are as silent as if they have swallowed their tongues in surprise.

AL-AHRAM says that we hoped that the talkative clique in Khartoum who hide behind Islamic slogans would say which religion allows them to indulge in forgery, collusion, and plotting to protect outlaws in their country, outlaws who have diplomatic passports in false names. Which religion allows them to establish a sinful alliance with the dealer who exports terrorists, the so-called Usamah Bin-Ladin, to train them in camps in Sudan? The paper wonders why the Khartoum rulers sent terrorists from Sudan to Ethiopia, where the criminal attempt on President Husni Mubarak occurred.

Sudan Memorandum Discussed

NC0907143195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa after the latter's return from Manama. They will discuss the memorandum Sudan has submitted regarding its request to calm the situation with Egypt.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that the Sudanese memorandum does not contain a protest against Egypt. He clarified that the memorandum contains a request for mediation by the Arab League Secretariat to ease the tension between the two countries.

In press statements Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa earlier denied the existence of Arab mediation between Egypt and Sudan at present.

Mubarak Meets Army Commanders, Discusses Security

NC0907144995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 9 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that the security measures Egypt has recently taken concerning the entry of the Sudanese brothers into Egypt are aimed at preserving Egyptian security. The practices of the Sudanese regime have forced Egypt to take these measures, he said.

The president said he had instructed the Interior Ministry to insure the safety and stability to the Sudanese brothers and their families who are living among their kinsfolk in Egypt.

These remarks were cited by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif at the end of President Mubarak's meeting with the commanders of the Armed Forces at the rest house of the Air Defense Academy. Earlier, his excellency the president attended a graduation ceremony for a group of the academy's students.

The meeting was attended by Field Marshal Husayn Tantawi, minister of defense and war production; Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, the Armed Forces chief of staff; and commanders of the main Armed Forces branches. It was also attended by the speakers of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, ministers, and a number of opposition party leaders.

The information minister said President Mubarak asserted during the meeting that he is confident about the stability of Egypt now and in the future in the shadow of a democratic system based on a state of the institutions and commitment to the Constitution, which clearly set out the system of government, the way the people choose the president of the republic and members of the constitutional institutions, and relations among the branches of power.

President Mubarak said the time of the individual ruler "has gone," and no one can retreat from the democracy and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, whose values and principles we must respect and implement in letter and spirit.

Safwat al-Sharif said that during the meeting the president stressed his interest in democracy as a concept, a philosophy, and a practice, and his concern about the guarantees it offers and the institutions it produces.

The president said the government did not and will not interfere in any elections. He stressed his eagerness for the people to be given a full chance to choose their representatives. Our aim, he said, is to always serve the public interest apart from any whims or prejudices.

On the method of casting votes, President Mubarak explained: We have to abide by the law, but at the same time, there is nothing to prevent us from studying the experience of the states that preceded us in democratic experience in order to develop our systems.

The information minister said President Mubarak explained during his meeting with the Armed Forces commanders that Egypt's success in implementing the development plans did not proceed from a vacuum, but

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had favorable circumstances and factors, notably stability, security, and the determination to achieve our objectives.

This success, he explained, requires that society's executive institutions remain stable by giving the government a chance to continue as long as it is successful in implementing the comprehensive reform policies.

It is this stability that led to those achievements, he said.

He expressed his belief that change should not be just for the sake of change, but he stressed that any negligence will be met with "a decisive decision".

Eight Sudanese Nationals Without Visas Denied Entry

NC0907121295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—A Sudanese plane coming from Khartoum arrived in Cairo this morning carrying 20 Egyptian passengers and a Sudanese female passenger who has an entry visa to Egypt. The authorities granted her permission to enter the country.

On the other hand, the airport authorities denied entry to eight Sudanese passengers coming from Ukraine as part of a tourist group on board a chartered aircraft because they did not have entry visas. The authorities gave them the option of returning to Ukraine or proceeding to Sudan.

Yesterday, the Egyptian general consulate in Khartoum began to implement new procedures for the Sudanese's entry into Egypt through advance entry visas which have become mandatory for every Sudanese national wanting to visit Egypt.

Equipment for 'Terrorists' Seized; Sudan Said Involved

NC0907171495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security source has stated that as part of the State Security Intelligence agencies' intensive monitoring of all the airports and ports in the republic to prevent every act of infiltration or smuggling into this country, and as part of the efforts to foil terrorist schemes by making use of the confessions of perpetrators exported by some regimes sheltering fugitive elements abroad, the following have been seized:

1. Radio communication equipment and devices in a diplomatic pouch that arrived at Cairo International Airport in the name of Bushara Sa'id 'Ali, an attache at the Sudanese Embassy. The pouch included four parcels containing electric equipment. The embassy official maintained that this equipment is a television set, a video camera, and an electric washer-drier. On 8 July, customs officials, along with the security authorities at the airport, opened the diplomatic pouch in the presence of a representative of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and a representative of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo. It was found to contain equipment and devices for radio communications and spare parts for it, as mentioned above. These items were not listed as part of the contents of the pouch, and their entry requires official approval from the competent authorities.

2. On 8 July, information was received that the terrorist leaders of the organization [not further identified] in an Asian country were shipping material and equipment to be used by terrorists from Sudan to resume their hostile operations against Egypt and a number of Arab countries. The security men succeeded in detecting the shipment and following its movement since it was loaded on an official airplane and when that plane landed in Cairo International Airport. It was due to be transported to Khartoum Airport on 9 July. After getting permission from the prosecution, the security services inspected the contents of the parcels and found them to contain organizational documents containing details about weapons and explosives, their types and characteristics, and publications on military topography, intelligence work, combat tactics, booby traps, the use and types of poisons, and methods of criminal psychoanalysis.

The following were also seized: Two waxy plastic boards, special zinc printing plates used for forgery, three containers of chemical substances, a bottle of invisible ink — now being examined — luggage, clothing, field boots, a magnifying glass, sharp tools, stamps used by the Egyptian Civil Affairs Authority — one for raised seals and another for identity cards — special tools for forgery and erasure, and catalogues for Egyptian banknotes of 1-, 10-, and 20-pound denominations. The technical examination showed that these materials are similar to material seized form terrorists involved in recent cases. A report on the seized material was prepared and referred to the public prosecution for investigation.

MENA Reports Arrest of 4 Engineers in Khartoum

NC0807171795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (MENA)—Sudanese authorities this afternoon arrested engineer 'Ali al-Sayyid 'Abd-al- Latif, manager of the Khartoum branch of the Egyptian Reinforced Concrete Works

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Company, and three of the company's Egyptian engineers. This escalates the tension between Sudan and Egypt.

Last year, Sudanese authorities arrested 17 Egyptians working for Egyptian companies in Khartoum, including 14 from the above-named company's branch in Khartoum.

This company built most of the important buildings in Khartoum, including the Kuwaiti buildings on the Blue Nile, the famous Burj al-Barakah in the capital's center, and the stately Agricultural Bank building on the banks of the al-Maqran River. It is now building several residential blocks in the al-Ma'murah area, south of Khartoum Airport.

Border Area Chiefs To Renew Allegiance to Mubarak

NC1007070595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A massive popular rally will be held in Bi'r Shalatayn on Wednesday [12 July] to renew allegiance to President Husni Mubarak. The rally will be followed by a procession including 70 tribal chiefs from the area who will travel to Cairo to submit a document of allegiance to President Mubarak and relay to him the denunciation expressed by the area's tribes over the recent evil attack on his excellency's motorcade in Addis Ababa.

Counselor Ahmad Radwan, who is the minister for Cabinet affairs, has stated that the higher committee for the development of Hala'ib will meet under Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi to discuss a report prepared by the prime ministerial technical secretariat on the achievements made in connection with rebuilding Hala'ib, Bi'r Shalatayn, and Abu Ramad and the necessary allocations in the 1995-1996 economic plan to complete development projects in those areas.

Counselor Radwan added that development and service projects in the three towns cost 127 million pounds in 1994-1995. This included the upgrading of water and electricity services, schools, hospitals, transport, and new roads.

The minister for cabinet affairs reported that central hospitals will be built in Bi'r Shalatayn and Hala'ib, adding their services to those offered by the health convoys that currently service Bedouin communities in the area.

Ministry Official Denies OAU To Move From Addis Ababa

NC0907140395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1338 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Ambassador Sa'id Rif'at, assistant foreign minister for African affairs, has affirmed that Egyptian-Ethiopian relations are good and are governed by deeply-rooted strategic interests and considerations.

In a statement today, the Egyptian official clarified that these distinguished relations have developed through various stages to include joint cooperation and coordination in numerous fields. This is something both Ethiopia and Egypt are intent on continuing and bolstering.

Answering a question from MENA on the possibility of transferring the OAU from Addis Ababa, Ambassador Sa'if Rif'at said that this is not under consideration and was not brought up at any level during the OAU meetings.

Security Forces Seize 'Extremists,' Weapons

NC0807090395 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 Jul 95 p 21

[Report by Murid Subhi]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As part of the continuing campaign to raid the dens of extremists and terrorists in the Upper Egypt governorates, the security agencies in Asyut Governorate have apprehended 15 active extremists and 17 suspects, particularly in the Dayrut area. The security agencies also seized 177 weapons of various types, including 50 automatic rifles and a large quantity of live ammunition. Major General Majdi al-Basyuni, assistant to the interior minister for Asyut security, on instructions from Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, ordered the security forces to launch surprise campaigns to hunt down terrorists and criminals. The security forces launched several campaigns simultaneously to sweep up the dens of crime in the various villages and towns in Asyut Governorate. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Aswan Security Intelligence agencies seized 500 firearms, 180 bullets, 400 kg gunpowder, 48 fugitive extremists, and 15 kg of drugs. They also apprehended 2,700 fugitive convicts and collected fines totalling 32,000 pounds during a two-week campaign led by Maj. Gen. Sami 'Abd-al-Jawad, assistant to the interior minister for the Aswan security. [passage omitted]

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Court Passes Death Sentence on 3 al-Jihad Members

NC0907091195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0857 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—The Higher State Security Court-Emergency, sitting under Counselor Ahmad Salah-al-Din, has passed death sentences against three defendants in the case of the al-Suways terrorist organization which belongs to al-Jihad Organization. The case involves 18 suspects from leaders of the terrorist groups.

In its session this morning, the court also sentenced five defendants to life at hard labor and eight others to 15 years at hard labor. It acquitted two others.

The court passed death sentences against Muhammad Fawzi Muhammad Ibrahim, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir Bakri, and Gharib al-Shahhat Muhammad. It acquitted Mahmud Muhammad 'Ali Muhammad and 'Abd-al-Hamid Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The five defendants who were sentenced by the Higher State Security Court- Emergency to life at hard labor are Muhammad Sa'id Abu-Zayd 'Atiyah, Hasan 'Abd-al-'Al Farajallah, Sayyid Muhammad al-Sayyid Khalafallah, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Abu-al-Fadl, and 'Atiyah 'Abd-al-Sami'.

The eight defendants sentenced for 15 years at hard labor are: Muhammad Amin 'Abd-al-'Alim, Muhammad Maqbul Muhammad Hasanayn, Khalid Hamdun 'Abd-al-'Alim, Sharif 'Adil Bayyumi, Abu-al-Majd 'Abd- al-Latif Abu-al-Majd, 'Adil Sa'd Rabbuh, al-Sayyid Asbar al-Sayyid Khattab, and 'Imad-al-Din Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Ati. [passage omitted]

Libya

Opposition Claims 'Dozens' Killed in Protests

NC0707154595 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 7 (AFP) — Libyan security forces have killed or wounded dozens of protesters during clashes in the east of the country, an opposition group based in Cairo said Friday [7 July].

Muhammad Fayiz Jibril of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya (NFSL) said the unrest erupted last month following a government crackdown on suspected Moslem fundamentalists and it was still continuing. "These riots broke out at the start of June after large-scale arrests of young Libyans suspected by the regime of belonging to fundamentalist groups," said Jibril, the front's representative in Cairo.

"The destruction of a dignitary's home in Tubruq (eastern Libya) who organised mass meetings there" also sparked clashes, he said. "Dozens of armed youths clashed with security forces and were killed or wounded in the riots" which erupted in several towns on Libya's northeast Mediterranean coast including Banghazi, Al-Bayda' and Tubruq.

Jibril said two senior Libyan security officers were wounded in the trouble. The National Front was founded in 1981 in Sudan and is one of the largest Libyan opposition groups.

Chad Asks al-Qadhdhafi To Help Resolve Dispute

LD0807201695 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader today had a telephone call from President Idriss Deby of Chad, in which President Deby expressed his deep concern at reports in the news on relations between Egypt and Sudan getting tense. President Deby hoped that the brother leader would exert efforts so that this dispute between brothers may be contained, and problems between them may be resolved through fraternal dialogue.

JANA Views UK's Rifkind Appointment

LD0707193695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 7 Jul — A new English [as received] cabinet was announced in the English capital in which "Malcolm Rifkind" was assigned the post of foreign secretary; he is Jewish and replaces Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

The international affairs editor of JANA comments on this. He says: "Douglas Hurd," the former English foreign secretary, adopted a racist, crusader, and rancorous stance in English foreign policy, and he embodied all of the resentful, racist hatred and hostility that emerged in all of his statements concerning the Great Jamahariyah and the Libyan Arab people, Arabism, and Islam. He did not promote peace, understanding, and dialogue with the Libyans. Rather, he pursued a path governed by bigotry, distortion, and falsification and rallying public opinion against the Libyan Arab people.

The international affairs editor stresses: The minister thought that the path he followed would either raise his stature or strengthen his position or earn him favor, but what happened was the opposite. He fell into the garbage can of history; the steadfastness of the Libyan Arab people remained high and fast; and the aforementioned English minister ended his post forever and no one regrets his departure. This confirms that we

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were right, and we are the ones who remain steadfast. There is a lesson to be learned by those who take heed.

On the other hand, the editor adds, this appointment in the new English Government is the first appointment of a Jewish foreign secretary since the Second World War. England used to think carefully about its interests in the Arab homeland and had never dared to take a step like this. It used to avoid provoking the Arabs for fear of its interests, but now it does not give any consideration to the Arabs. Provoking them or arousing their feelings is not a consideration now in English policy toward the Arabs.

The JANA international affairs editor says that when a country appoints a minister who has another identity and belief, it is as if it has appointed a minister who belongs to that identity and that ideology. It is as if he does not belong to that state. Hence, "Malcolm Rifkind" is on probation. Will his Zionist spirit overwhelm him, or will he, as England believes, work for its higher interests and not endanger those interests.

This will become clearer from the political line this minister takes in solving the so-called Lockerbie issue and in pursuing a rapprochement with the Great Jamahariyah to get this issue out of its current state.

The JANA international affairs editor concludes by saying that this is the real test for this minister and we hope it is not governed by a racist, Zionist inclination, and that he learns from the fate of those before him who followed the racist, hateful, and hostile line against nations; who let reason and dialogue be an arbiter; and who put the interests of nations ahead of narrow and selfish interests.

Libyan-Bulgarian Joint Committee Session Begins

LD0707143595 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The meetings of the 20th session of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Joint Committee began this morning in [name indistinct], attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture, and by Doncho Donchev Konakchiev, the Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister of regional development and construction.

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture made a speech in which he stressed the importance of bolstering joint cooperation between the two countries in various fields for the joint benefit of the two friendly peoples.

For his part, Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister Doncho Konakchiev emphasized the importance of increasing cooperation between the Great Jamahariyah and Bulgaria, pointing out the importance of the 20th session of the joint commission in strengthening relations between the two friendly countries.

During this meeting, participants reviewed the implementation of tasks set by the previous session and emphasized the importance of bolstering cooperation between the two countries.

An economic committee and a development committee was set up by the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian Joint Committee.

Bulgarian Officials Met

LD0907181195 Tripoli JANA in English 1722 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [No dateline as received] The secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation met in Tripoli yesterday afternoon the Bulgarian deputy prime minister and minister for regional development and construction, Doncho Konakchiev, who is heading the delegation of his country to the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Bulgarian joint economic cooperation.

The meeting discussed the necessary means to consolidate the current cooperation relations between the Great Jamahariyah and the Republic of Bulgaria.

Morocco

Filali: Brussels Visit 'Very Positive'

LD0707124395 Rabat MAP in English 1225 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Brussels, Jul. 07 (MAP) — Moroccan Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali described his visit to Brussels as 'very positive' in a statement to the press at the end of a meeting with European Commission President Jacques Santer.

The meeting, also attended by Manuel Marin, deputy president of the commission in charge of the Mediterranean policy and European fisheries commissioner Mrs Emma Bonino, Filali added enabled us to 'open a friendly and realistic dialog on the problems we are facing' and 'clarify the situation' between Morocco and the European Union (EU).

For (?her part), Mrs Bonino told the press 'this political meeting was positive' speaking of a meeting with Filali. 'We reviewed all the various parties of the relation puzzle binding Morocco and the Union'.

She stated however that some parties of the puzzle are still missing saying she was 'more optimistic' but failed

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to give any venue for the resumption of the talks on the fisheries [words indistinct]

Spokesman of the commission Nikolaus Vander Pass affirmed the talks between Filali and Santer 'were a great success' and the two sides voiced their will to restart the negotiations on fisheries.

At a press briefing here Thursday [6 July] afternoon, the spokesman added the talks also tackled 'the EU Mediterranean policy'. Filali highlighted the importance of the EU Mediterranean policy for Mediterranean countries and underscored the role played by Morocco in this regard, he went on.

'Filali also underscored the need to separate the negotiations on fisheries from the talks relative to the association accord', Pass said adding the Moroccan premier stressed that 'the negotiations must take into account all the aspects of the dossier'.

Minister: EU Must Agree To Save Fish Stocks

LD0607133995 Rabat MAP in English
1310 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 06 (MAP) — The success of the negotiations on fisheries between Morocco and the European Union (EU) depends on the acceptance of the European party of the Moroccan claims aiming namely at preserving the sea stocks of the country and at defending the interests of the national fishing fleet, Moroccan Minister of Fisheries and Merchant Marine Mustafa Sahel said.

Sahel Wednesday told the House of Representatives the dispute between Morocco and the European Union (EU) cannot be compared with the Canadian-EU dispute, for the former concerns Moroccan sovereignty over its waters while the latter concerns international waters.

He added the government is keen on preserving Moroccan sea resources and fisheries related industries, for the sector contributes 15 percent of national exports and employs some 400,000 people. Priority is given to national production in this respect in the negotiations with the EU, he specified.

On the harassing of Moroccan commodities entering Spain, the minister said the acts breach international law and conventions recalling that the protests made by the Moroccan Foreign Ministry against the practices and affirmed that Morocco negotiates with the Union and not with a EU member state.

Fishing Minister Meets Swedish Trade Minister

LD0607132495 Rabat MAP in English
1244 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul 5 (MAP) — Aspects of Moroccan-Swedish cooperation in sea fisheries topped talks held here Tuesday [4 July] between Moroccan Sea Fisheries and Merchant Navy Minister Mustapha Sahel and visiting Swedish External Trade and European Affairs Minister Matts Hellstroem.

The two sides also dealt with relations between Morocco and the European Union in the fields of fisheries.

The two ministers shared the concern to protect Morocco's sea resources and sea environment. They agreed to exchange experience in this field and hold regular meetings to foster cooperation in this realm.

The Swedish official previously held a series of talks with a number of members of the Moroccan Government, including Premier and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali, Ministers of Trade, Industry and Handicraft Driss Jettou, of Agriculture Hassan Abou Ayoub, of External Trade Mohamed Alami, of Energy and Mining Abdellatif Guerraoui and Secretary of State to Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Taieb Fassi Fehri.

The global volume of exchanges between Morocco and Sweden went up from 36.5 million dollars in 1980 to 147,20 million dollars in 1994.

Moroccan imports from Sweden recorded [word indistinct] growth from 229 million dh [dirhams] (1 USd is 8.50 dh) in 1980 to 1.156 million dh in 1994. [words indistinct] cardboard, timber, industrial cars and electric apparatuses.

The exports towards the Swedish market witnessed a fluctuating evolution since 1985, with a decreasing trend of nearly 49 pc [percent] in the past three years (95 million dh in 1994 against 185 dh in 1991). The decrease is due to the fall of phosphate sales.

Magazine: No Prospects for Fishing Talks

LD0707131795 Rabat MAP in English
1229 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Jul 07 (MAP) — 'The positions of the protagonists in the fisheries dispute — Moroccans, Spanish and Europeans — seem to have found no (?merging) point', 'ARABIES' [name as received] magazine said in its latest release.

'The only sure thing is that none of the parties really knows when discussion on the renewal of a fisheries accord between Morocco and the European Union (EU)

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can begin. Morocco had made it known it has not the intention to be hasty. [no closing quotation mark received]

The magazine also stated that some official milieus say that 'at the pace at which things are going, Morocco will not take part in any consultation of the kind proposed by the EU in the Mediterranean framework as long as fisheries negotiations are pending'.

It added that Rabat refuses a sectoral drive in appraising the problems with the Union, for the Moroccan diplomacy favors the linkage theory and sees that bilateral questions should be considered globally, which approach is ruled out by the EU at the outset.

Even the conference next November in Barcelona to deal with European-Mediterranean partnership and association moves will not bring in 'adequate answers', the magazine argues stating that 'Spain alone is able to create surprise through conciliating its interests with those of its neighbor'.

Spanish Foreign Minister Says Relations 'Good'

LD0707132495 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, Jul. 07 (MAP) — 'The dispute on fisheries, though important, cannot ruin the whole set of relations with Morocco', Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana told the 'FIGARO' economic supplement of Thursday adding the 'relations with Morocco are good'.

He wished the problem on the conclusion of a fisheries accord between Morocco and the European Union (EU) be settled before November when a European-Mediterranean conference is to open in Barcelona to treat partnership and association deals.

He specified the Barcelona conference is an opportunity for the EU to 'get aware of the existence of its southern frontiers' stressing that huge funds are earmarked to carry out projects in the countries south to the Mediterranean.

The EU plans to set in motion a mutual integration process of the two banks of the sea to focus on security, cooperation and culture, Solana said adding 'culture is no easy affair. The existing cultural incomprehension must be reduced at any cost'.

Economic, Cultural Agreement With Sudan Signed

LD0107134195 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Morocco and Sudan signed yesterday in Rabat an economic and cultural cooperation framework agreement, which is aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade and industry and also at boosting cooperation in sports and cultural activities.

The agreement was signed for the Moroccan side by Mr. Abdallah al-Azmani, minister of cultural affairs [name and title as heard], and for the Sudanese side by Mr. Taj al-Sirr Mustafa, minister of trade.

Hassan Receives Message From Sudan's al-Bashir

LD0707135495 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God guide him to victory, received this afternoon at the royal palace in Skhiret Mr. Dominic Kassiano, the Sudanese president's envoy and Sudanese minister of labor and administrative reforms. At the meeting, the Sudanese minister conveyed to the beloved monarch a written message from his excellency President 'Umar al-Bashir.

The meeting was attended by Mr Taieb Fassi Fihri, secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Mr Siddiq Yusuf Abu Aqlah, the Sudanese ambassador to Rabat.

Aviation Accord Signed With Palestinian Authority

LD0607141095 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, July 06 (MAP) — Moroccan Airports National Office signed Wednesday [5 July] in Casablanca with the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority two accords (?related) to the construction of an airport in self-ruled Gaza.

Under the accords, the Moroccan party will supervise all construction operations of the airport, train the Palestinian cadres and ensure the airport's administrative organization and functioning.

The Moroccan airports office also signed the same day in Casablanca a partnership training accord with the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Under the accord, the Moroccan airmen and technicians will be informed on latest avionics technologies and last generation navigation and control techniques.

Minister Affirms Adherence to UN Plan on Sahara

LD0607132795 Rabat MAP in English 1239 GMT 6 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Jul. 05 (MAP) — Moroccan Communication Minister and spokesman for the government Moulay Driss Alaoui M'daghri renewed Tuesday Morocco's attachment to the settlement (?plan)

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of the United Nations on the holding of a referendum in the Sahara.

The minister, who was speaking at a press briefing in Rabat, tackled the obstacles sowed by the 'Polisario' [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] to slow down the settlement process. The minister underlined Morocco's concern to solve the issue within the deadlines set by the United Nations.

The minister stressed that the other side which failed to honor its commitments, should abide by the UN resolutions.

Moroccan Premier and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali had underlined lately in a letter to the president of the UN Security Council that the kingdom 'cannot accept that a minority imposes its law on an operation led by the United Nations, stops and resumes the processes at its own convenience'.

Proceedings of 4 Jul Government Council Meeting

LD0407223895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The measures taken to rationalize state expenditures, and the impact of the drought on external trade were two important points raised at the meeting of the Council of Government under the chairmanship Mr. Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

Concerning the work of the Council of Government, Mr. Moulay Driss Alaoui M'Daghri, minister of communication and official government spokesman, said at a news conference this evening in Rabat:

[Begin M'Daghri recording] At the meeting of the Council of Government this morning, the council listened to a report by the minister of finance and foreign investments on the present financial situation and the need to rationalize public spending with regard to the state budget.

This rationalization will take place on the basis of economizing in management expenditure and rationalizing expenditure, and also making more effective use of expenditure. At the same time he informed the council that there are practical proposals which will be put before the council at a coming meeting so that the government can take the necessary measures concerning this matter in the search for greater rationalization and wider economy, and more effectiveness in public spending.

Naturally within this framework, this will include bolstering investments and social sector spending.

The council afterward listened to a report by Mohamed Alami, minister of foreign trade, on the effect of the drought on foreign trade. This report included an analysis of the negative impact, whose full effect has not yet emerged this year, on some vegetables and citrus fruits compared with the positive yields of the past year. Results will regrettably not be good in the coming months.

He also pointed out that Morocco has imported large quantities of grain and animal fodder to meet its needs. He recalled that the government adopted a number of extraordinary and encouraging measures to aid the farmers who suffered from the effects of the drought. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Prime Minister Briefs Committee on Foreign Policy

LD3006175895 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Among the activities of the House of Representatives, the foreign affairs, cooperation, borders, occupied areas, and national defense committee held a meeting yesterday which was attended by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Abdesslam Barakat, minister for relations with parliament.

Regarding this meeting, Committee Chairman Badreddine Snoussi said:

[Begin Snoussi recording] The prime minister reviewed various issues related to our foreign relations. He touched upon the issues of Ceuta and Mellila, fisheries, negotiations with the EU, and our Saharan territories.

The prime minister gave us valuable information on all these issues and the latest developments regarding them. [passage omitted]

All the members hailed the government's firm and objective stance regarding fisheries and the negotiations with the EU. Everyone was in agreement with the prime minister that this agreement must be comprehensive so that we can benefit from the fisheries card and incorporate the agricultural materials file [sentence as heard]. On the Western Saharan issue, all the committee members — despite their differing political tendencies — hailed the stance of the government and the prime minister following the issuing of the report of the UN mission after its recent visit to the region. You know that the process of voter identification has been suspended because of the intransigence of the [Western Saharan] mercenaries or separatists. The prime minister took a firm stand on this issue, recalling that Morocco cannot accept the domination of a minority in the identification process which is supervised by the United Nations. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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Sudan

Citizens Face New Entry Procedures for Egypt

Rules Bar Those Without Visas

EA0707212395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Egyptian authorities have demanded the different aviation companies to prevent Sudanese from entering Egypt without visa. This procedure came in the framework of the escalation campaign led by the Egyptian regime. It is to be recalled that the Egyptian regime had decided last week to reduce flights between Sudan and Egypt by 50 percent.

Procedures Detailed

NC0807111995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (MENA)—This morning the Egyptian General Consulate in Khartoum began to implement new procedures for Sudanese citizens to enter Egypt. As of today it is mandatory for every Sudanese wanting to visit Egypt to obtain an entry visa in advance.

Husam 'Arif, Egypt's consul general in Sudan, said the visas will be issued free of charge due to Egypt's appreciation of the eternal and brotherly ties linking the two fraternal nations.

In a statement to MENA, he said the Sudanese citizens' entry visas to Egypt will be valid for a whole month. During this month, he added, a Sudanese citizen who wishes to extend his stay in Egypt can obtain a residence permit from the Passports, Immigration, and Nationality Agency at the al-Tahrir Compound in Cairo.

The consul general said if a Sudanese citizen who has obtained a residence permit in Egypt wishes to travel abroad, he must obtain a return visa from the competent authorities in Egypt prior to his travel. He added that if the residence abroad exceeds six months, the Sudanese citizen must get a new visa to enter Egypt valid for one month, during which a new residence permit can be obtained from the relevant authorities.

MENA's correspondent in Khartoum has learned that under these new procedures, all Sudanese nationals residing in Egypt—of which there are over three and half million according to unofficial statistics— will have to obtain residence permits from the competent authorities.

Foreign Ministry on New Policy

AB0907170095 Paris AFP in English 152ƃ GMT 09 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 9 (AFP) — Sudan on Sunday [9 July] accused Egypt of escalating tension in the region by slapping tough new visa requirements on Sudanese entering its territory.

A statement by the Sudanese foreign ministry denounced the Egyptian decision to introduce for the first time visas for Sudanese entering Egypt as "yet another move within the attempts of escalating (tension) and harassment of Sudanese citizens."

But Culture and Information Minister Abdul Basit Sabdarat said Khartoum would not retaliate, adding "Sudan's doors will remain open to all Arabs without conditions." He told the official news agency SUNA that Saturday's decision was aimed at "cutting off communication between the peoples of the two countries." It would not make Sudan "reconsider its beliefs and principles of the unity of the peoples of the Nile Valley," Sabdarat added.

Relations between Cairo and Khartoum have deteriorated since Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak accused Sudan of masterminding a June 26 assassination attempt on his motorcade in Addis Ababa.

Egypt also decided Sunday to require residence permits for 3.5 million Sudanese who, according to Cairo, live in its territory, the official Egyptian MENA agency reported.

Cairo has also cut the number of direct flights by Sudan Airways between the two countries to two a week.

The foreign ministry statement said Sunday this was a "flagrant violation of agreements between the two neighbours" which is "unacceptable under any convention or law."

Mubarak said Sunday: "These measures were taken to protect the country's security. We had to take them after the actions of the Sudanese regime."

Country To Keep Current Visa Policy

EA0907191895 Khartoum SUNA in English 1723 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 9 (SUNA) — Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat has said that the decision of the Egyptian regime which stipulated entry visas for Sudanese nationals was aimed at severing the links between the two peoples.

Sabdarat said in a press statement to SUNA that this decision by the Egyptian regime will not make Sudan

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relinquish its orientations and its belief on the unity of the two peoples of the Nile Valley and the historic ties linking between them.

Believing on the necessity of Arab unity, the salvation revolution has exempted all the Arabs who intend to visit Sudan from [sentence as received]

The Egyptian authorities even cancelled the licences already given to Sudanese private aviation companies without providing convincing justifications for that, the source said .

Meanwhile, he said that the recent Egyptian decision introducing entry visas for Sudanese passengers was aimed at creating inconveniences to Sudanese citizens without respect of the historic and sisterly ties between the two peoples.

The source pointed out that Sudan has remained allowing Egyptian nationals to enter Sudan without visas adding that the Egyptians are enjoying special treatment in Sudan .

He underlined that the Egyptian authorities earlier stopped the river navigation between Halfa and Aswan after Sudan had refused existence of Egyptian security men aboard the steamer, travelling to Aswan from Wadi Halfa, indicating that Egyptian security men had been causing provocations to Sudanese passengers.

The source added that Sudan has drawn attention of the Egyptian authorities to the mistreatment inflicted on Sudanese nationals at the Egyptian ports and airports where they have been kept for long hours without convincing reasons.

Al-Turabi on U.S. Charges on Human Rights, 'Terrorism'

AB0807200795 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 8 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Relations between Sudan and America show no signs of thawing. In spite of heated denials, America persists in its accusations that Sudan is a supporter of international terrorism and allows terrorists to be trained in special camps in Sudan. Sudan is on the list of terrorist states, and suffers a range of economic sanctions because of it. What is more, America has recently been lambasting General al-Bashir's regime for its allegedly poor human-rights record. While she was in Khartoum recently, journalist Jane Cokan asked the American ambassador, Donald Petterson, if they still thought Sudan's human-rights record was bad:

[Begin recording] [Petterson] Yes, our human-rights report catalogues a great variety of human rights violations which routinely take place here. And the failure of the government of Sudan to address these problems, to do something about the human rights violations which are committed by government people, by government elements, is a serious difference between us, and it's one of the reasons that we have such a bad relationship. There is no question that there are gross violations of human rights here in Sudan.

[Cokan] You accuse Sudan of sponsoring and supporting terrorism. What proof do you have?

[Petterson] Well, actually they were placed on a list of states, sponsors of terrorism, two years ago. It was in August, 1993. This was done after a very careful review of the record, for more than a first time by the secretary of state, and he found that the evidence that was at hand at that time was credible, and that Sudan deserved to be placed on the list.

I can tell you that not only are terrorist organizations here, they are here in an organized way. They have organizations, they have offices. A great variety of terrorist organizations, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Abou Nidal, Hezbollah, Hamas, an Egyptian terrorist organization, and others — they are here.

There is interaction between individuals of these organizations and elements of the government. There has been training conducted here. We reported to the government just one instance of such training, where we have information from a member of Hamas about the training he received here at a camp. So it's without question, but the government, however, chose to dismiss that.

Beyond that, there have been weapons that pass through Sudan destined for Algeria, for the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] in Algeria. So there is a great body of evidence, much of which I cannot talk about publicly, but it is all very compelling. [end recording]

Or perhaps the real bogeyman for the Americans is Islamic leader Hasan 'Abdallah al-Turabi, who is widely seen as the fundamentalist power behind the throne in Sudan. Jane Cokan asked him if he didn't accept America's assessment that Sudan backed and trained terrorists:

[Begin recording] [al-Turabi] Oh, these are only stories. I have been to America, oh, lots of times. I have spoken to senators, to presidents, to governors, to journalists. I know how little they know about the world. I read their papers. Sometimes, in a place where not even a police station will be there, they think there is a huge camp actually training people to invade Europe, or invade somewhere else.

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They don't know. They are the only ones who listed Sudan on that terrorist list. Sudan is a very peaceful country. You walk in the streets, you won't find a sense of horror. And actually, even diplomats whenever they come to the Sudan — of course, they were frightened to come to an area of terror — but most of them are surprised that it's so different from what they have been reading.

So, the Americans are normally very ignorant of the world, they don't study geography. Even I went with our own president to President Reagan. He didn't know where we came from. He thought the Sudan was like in America — this is the president. [al-Turabi laughs] He must have been briefed before we saw him, but it didn't help him very much.

[Cokan] But what about the specific allegations of human-rights abuses and your contacts with Iranian terrorist groups?

[Al-Turabi] Most of these charges are stupid. There isn't a single Iranian in this country besides the embassy staff. Not even businessmen, there is no trade between the Sudan and Iran. They don't know that. They think that there are thousands and thousands of Iranians. [Words indistinct] came, they can be recognized easily here. They are training thousands and thousands of Sudanese, and they don't know the truth. As to human rights, I keep speaking with ambassadors, with journalists, with diplomats, with others who come from America and the West, but normally they know very, very little about the Sudan.

Even human-rights charges against the Sudan, I asked them to compare that to neighboring countries, where there are a thousand times more detainees than in the Sudan. Sudan's is normally tens of detainess, but now more journalists are coming to the country. People are [word indistinct]. Members of parliament, religious people are coming to the country, and they see with their own eyes that it's much different from what they have heard about. [end recording]

Egypt Urged To Accept 'Reconciliatory Efforts'

JN0807210295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Jul 95

[From the "Panorama" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In statements to our radio, Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, said there are Arab efforts to resolve the crisis between Egypt and Sudan.

[Begin Muhammad recording] When differences emerge between any two Arab countries, these differences will become open for all Arab brothers to take a reconciliatory stand toward them. There is no doubt that the recent incidents between the two countries have attracted the attention of a number of Arab brothers who contacted Sudan to discuss these developments. I believe that whenever there are differences, not only between Sudan and Egypt, but also between other Arab states, such consultation, exchange of information, and reconciliatory efforts take place. [end recording]

Asked about the Sudanese response to Egypt's measures against the Sudanese nationals and the steps it takes to impose sovereignty over Hala'ib area, the Sudanese minister said:

[Begin Muhammad recording] We know that Hala'ib is within the Sudanese boundaries which the Egyptian Government recognized when Sudan's independence was announced. Egypt was then occupying Sudan. So, how did it recognize these borders if Hala'ib was not part of the Sudan in the first place. Now, you know that the Egyptian Government wishes to turn Hala'ib into an electoral constituency, 40 years after Sudan's independence. This, in itself, means that it was under the Sudanese sovereignty and elections were exercised there, while Egypt is trying to do that very lately.

At any rate, if Egypt has any right and documents to prove that, we invite it to a direct bilateral dialogue, or to an Arab mediation, or to international arbitration. It, however, rejects all these options. This provides categorical proof that it has no right, but wants to establish its presence in Hala'ib by the use of force. But I do not believe that the use of force will give Egypt any right in Hala'ib, even if it establishes a presence there or builds anything there. Sudan will not allow Egypt to take Hala'ib by force, and if it has to defend itself, it will do so. Sudan, however prefers the options that allow dialogue, mediation, and international arbitration, and we will continue to invite Egypt to accept these options. [end recording]

Human Rights Leader Links Sudan, Mubarak Attack

NC0907162095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Mahjub al-Tijani, chairman of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization [SHRO], has disclosed that there are documents proving that the ruling regime in Sudan was involved in the recent abortive assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. In a statement to MENA, he said that among these documents is one outlining statements by Bakri Hasan Salih, the Sudanese regime's security chief, to the effect that

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the Islamic Front regime is training jihad groups belonging to 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman and Rached Ghannouchi and providing them with funds and arms. Moreover, a large number of Hizballah supporters who came to Sudan from Iran were given extensive facilities by the Sudanese regime.

Al-Tijani stressed that the arrest of the international terrorist Carlos and admissions of the terrorist infiltrators into Upper Egypt confirm that a political crime was being prepared a year ago. He accused the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime of funding and planning this crime.

Al-Tijani said that the Sudanese people are above what the current Sudanese regime is doing. He noted in this respect the repression and injustice the Sudanese regime is imposing on the Sudanese people. He said that the Sudanese living abroad in countries that respect freedoms, such as Egypt, are seeking to exonerate the Sudanese people of the criminal attempt in Addis Ababa. He said: "We submitted charges to the Public Prosecutor in Egypt accusing al-Bashir and al-Turabi of complicity in this attempt."

Al-Tijani said that the Sudanese regime is politically illegal. It is unpopular and is rejected by the people. He noted that it is "terrorist-oriented," particularly against Egypt, where it is seeking to stir up upheavals and disturbances.

Al-Tijani disclosed that during its latest meeting in Khartoum the Islamic Arab Popular Congress chaired by Hasan al-Turabi passed several secret decisions to topple the regimes in a number of neighboring countries, including Egypt and Eritrea—which has severed its ties with Sudan—and Uganda and Kenya, whose ties with Sudan have been strained as a result of its actions. He noted that the Islamic Front regime in Sudan is also involved in funding the Ethiopian opposition Oromo Front, which seeks to overthrow the regime, not to mention its practices in Somalia. He noted that al-Turabi has said several times that he is opposed to the peace process in the Middle East.

Assailants Said Trained in Country

JN0707161795 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp

[Report by 'Adil al-Jawjari]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo—Sudanese sources in Cairo have revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI new secrets about the abortive assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The sources revealed that terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, leader of the military wing of the "Returnees from Afghanistan" organization, who currently lives in Khartoum, is the one who drew up the assassination plan after receiving instructions from Ayman al-Zawahiri, the organization's political leader who lives in Switzerland. The sources revealed fresh evidence about the involvement of Hasan al-Turabi's National Islamic Front in providing equipment, weapons, and funds to support the plot to assassinate President Mubarak. That was done following an agreement between al-Turabi and al-Zawahiri late last May during a secret visit by al-Turabi to Switzerland.

The sources said that al-Turabi traveled aboard a Netherlands KLM airliner under the pretext of treatment. At the beginning, he headed for Paris before leaving for Geneva, where he met with Ayman al-Zawahiri and promised him to extend the required support for the assassination of President Mubarak in Addis Ababa during his participation in the African summit.

The most dangerous information revealed by the sources is that the members chosen from the "Returnees from Afghanistan" organization were trained on the assassination plan in a farm 35 km north of Khartoum. Terrorists of various nationalities are trained there, including Egyptians, Algerians, Tunisians, Eritreans, and Ugandans. The camp is supervised by Sudanese, while routine training on car booby-trapping, planting mines, and guerrilla warfare is provided by Iranians. The sources believe that the assassination plan was drawn up in full secrecy so that nothing would be leaked about it to the Egyptian security authorities. The nine-man assassination group moved to Addis Ababa by air in mid- June. They resided in a villa located behind the Palestinian Embassy in the Ethiopian capital. They were visited there by terrorist Tharwat Salah, who is wanted in Egypt after receiving a death sentence for planning attacks on tourists. The sources said that Tharwat accompanied three of the assailants to the scene of the operation three days before its occurrence. They inspected the area and drew sketches of it. Tharwat Salah visited the terrorists once again and handed them two bags full of ammunition and explosives. As for the RPG launchers found by the Ethiopian police near the theater of the operation, they were received by the group from a Sudanese person called Shaykh Duraysh, who is a supporter of al- Turabi's front and works as a salesman between the Sudanese and Ethiopian capitals.

Mustafa Hamzah served as a link between Ayman al-Zawahiri and Tharwat Salah. The sources pointed to the role played by a Sudanese engineer referred to by the initials A. A. He is considered by the Sudanese opposition the general coordinator of the extremist fundamentalist organizations operating in Addis Ababa. It is believed that the role played by al-Turabi's front in the plot to assassinate President Mubarak goes beyond

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providing a training center (the farm) or smuggling weapons to Ethiopia. It supplied the terrorists with detailed information about the course of President Mubarak's motorcade from the airport to his place of residence in Addis Ababa. Besides, the front rented the villa using Sudanese names and papers. Alternative places of residence were provided for use by the assailants after the operation. Afterward, they were supposed to be moved to Khartoum. [passage omitted]

Official on Disputes With Egypt, Eritrea

NC0807195095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Ghazi Salah-al-Din, minister of state at the Foreign Ministry, in Khartoum, by 'Isam Hasan, in Tehran; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Dr. Salah-al-Din, according to some reports, Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi has said Egypt is planning reconstruction efforts in Hala'ib because it is an integral part of Egypt. What is your opinion on this statement?

[Salah-al-Din] Such statements are not new. Egyptian officials have been making such statements for several years. For your listeners' information, I would like to make it clear that the Egyptian Government has exceeded its limits and is discounting neighborliness. Egypt had no presence in Hala'ib until 1970-1971. Sudan permitted Egypt to have a presence there when Egypt formally requested observation posts to monitor Israeli planes that might threaten the High Aswan Dam. However, when Egypt signed the Camp David Accords in the late 1970's, it removed the observation posts because Israel was no longer an enemy. It was a friend and an ally. Egypt removed the observation posts on the Egyptian side of the border but kept the observations posts it had established in Hala'ib. Since then, Egypt has been seeking to permanently annex Hala'ib to Egypt. Also, the Sudanese-Egyptian border agreement was not the work of the Sudanese people. It was dictated to Sudan by the colonial powers, including Egypt, which colonized Sudan until 1956. Sudan was ruled by Britain and Egypt. Egypt was a colonizer of Sudan and it was Egypt that signed the agreement. Regrettably, Egyptian officials are trying to give Hala'ib an Egyptian character, disregarding the duty of brotherhood toward Sudan. However, you cannot change what is right. Our right will be preserved, God willing.

[Hasan] We have heard that Eritrea has lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council against Sudan. I do not know what the circumstances of the complaint are.

[Salah-al-Din] It is not a complaint. It is a response to a memorandum that Sudan submitted to the Security Council complaining about Eritrea; it hosted a conference of the remnants of mercenaries who profit at the expense of their country [conference held in Asmara by various opposition groups and Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]. They met in Asmara and they issued a statement declaring that they sponsor terrorist and violent acts against the Sudanese Government. We considered this in violation of the ties of neighborliness. Thus, we submitted a memorandum to the Security Council. The Eritrean memorandum is merely an insolent response by Eritrean President Issaias Afeworke to our memorandum.

[Hasan] AL-AHRAM newspaper today published a photocopy of a diplomatic passport allegedly used by the Tunisian [al-Nahdah movement] leader Ghannouchi. The paper said that Sudan gives such passports to some Islamists who lead terrorist groups. I don't know what information you have about such reports.

[Salah-al-Din] My brother, the Egyptian official media and the Egyptian Government are, as you know, very good at lying. The Egyptian president himself made false claims just two hours after the attempted assassination against him, when he was in a state of great panic. I have seen and heard him do that. Egyptian media constantly make such false claims. However, they fail to provide proof. They must provide proof because the accuser must provide the evidence. These unfounded allegations are similar to their president's claim that Sudan was involved in the assassination attempt.

[Hasan] One last issue. I am sorry if this is taking too long. The Egyptian regime is focusing its attacks on Dr. Hasan al-Turabi's character.

[Salah-Din] The Egyptian regime is an agent of western colonialism. Western colonialism hates nothing more than Islam. As you know, there is an Islamic renaissance in Iran, for example, and also elsewhere in the Islamic world. Only in Iran and Sudan has this renaissance taken the formal shape of a state. They hate Islam very much and resist it by various means. The best means to resist Islam is to let certain Muslims go loose against it. Examples are [Bangladeshi author] Taslima Nasreen and Salman Rushdie. Mubarak is one of the tools they use to fight Islam. This is why he radiates hate at a person like al-Turabi, who is a noted intellectual and religious figure. The Egyptian regime and this person [Mubarak] are merely acting as agents of the West.

[Hasan] Thank you.

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Minister Rejects 'Escalation' Over Hala'ib

EA0807145395 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1800 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The state minister at the Foreign Ministry, Bishop Gabriel Rorech, has reiterated Sudan's total rejection of Egyptian escalation of Hala'ib issue. Rorech asserted that the Sudan is resolved to solve the issue through the diplomatic and peaceful channels, and international arbitration by the international court of justice.

What is going on now between the Sudan and Egypt [is being] fomented by some elements who want to create [word indistinct] between the two sister peoples, Rorech said. He refuted Egyptian accusations of Sudan's involvement in the assassination bid against the Egyptian president, noting that investigations in the incident has assured Sudan complete innocence.

Rorech went on to say that Sudan had condemned the incident, adding that Sudan's orientation firmly stands against murder, which all regions prohibited.

Arab Efforts To Reconcile Sudan, Egypt Welcomed

JN0807185595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1800 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to our radio, Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, did not deny the existence of Arab mediation to prevent an exacerbation in the crisis between Egypt and Sudan:

[Begin Muhammad recording] When differences emerge between any two Arab countries, these differences will become open for all Arab brothers to take a reconciliatory stand toward them. There is no doubt that the recent incidents between the two countries have attracted the attention of a number of Arab brothers who contacted Sudan to discuss these developments. I believe that such things always happen [words indistinct] such consultation, exchange of information, and reconciliatory efforts take place. [end recording]

Minister Comments

JN0907202095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, minister of state for presidential affairs, by Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Birru] Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, you have visited Damascus and conveyed a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad from President 'Umar al-Bashir. The visit came amid a tense atmosphere between Cairo and Khartoum. Is it possible that President Hafiz al-Asad will be asked to mediate between Egypt and Sudan?

[Muhammad] To begin with, there are constant contacts and consultations between Sudan and sisterly Syria on bilateral, pan-Arab, and international issues. This is especially since the region is witnessing developments necessitating such consultations. What has taken place between Sudan and Egypt is part of this. Undoubtedly, by virtue of his position, President al-Asad is interested in the overall Arab relations and relevant developments. Therefore, there is nothing new about his follow up of the developments in the Arab arena as a whole and among Arab countries, whether at the bilateral or pan-Arab levels. However, the visit was aimed at exchanging views and opinions on various issues at various levels.

[Birru] Of course, among the topics of discussion was the current tension between Egypt and Sudan. What is the Syrian position on this issue?

[Muhammad] Syria is not unaware of what is taking place between the two countries. On its own initiative, Syria maintained contacts and efforts. This is not new.

[Birru] There are other Arab mediations. It has been said that there is a mediation undertaken by [Yemeni] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. How true is this?

[Muhammad] When differences emerge between any two Arab countries, these differences will become open for all Arab brothers to take a reconciliatory stand toward them. There is no doubt that the recent incidents between the two countries have attracted the attention of a number of Arab brothers who contacted Sudan to discuss these developments. I believe that whenever there are differences not only between Sudan and Egypt, but also between other Arab countries, such consultation, exchange of information, and reconciliatory efforts take place.

[Birru] It seems that the Egyptian-Sudanese dispute is likely to escalate. Egypt has imposed entry visas on Sudanese citizens. How will you respond to this move?

[Muhammad] The recent crisis was initiated by the Egyptian authority, which issued arbitrary, unfounded charges a few hours after the [assassination] incident and before the revelation of facts and before any investigation. That was very quickly followed by measures in the Hala'ib area, in the course of which one of our police units was besieged and a number of its members was either killed or wounded. That was immediately followed the next day by measures in the course of which a police unit in that area was disarmed. Then about 70 policemen were gathered and expelled from the Hala'ib triangle beyond the 23d parallel. Afterward, Egyptian war-

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planes overflew Hala'ib city. Leaflets were distributed ordering citizens to quickly leave the area within three days. Afterward, artillery shelling was heard in Hala'ib. Then measures were taken inside Egypt. A number of Sudanese students was asked to take part in demonstrations and marches against their government and to issue statements in the same direction. Those who refused were put in jail blindfolded. Some of them returned and revealed this in news conferences. Afterward, the Egyptian government reduced the number of flights between the two countries. The entry visa requirement is *one these continuous escalatory steps by the Egyptian* authority. This is despite the occasional political statements on attempts to ease tension and contain the deterioration of relations. However, on the ground, I know that all the measures taken by the Egyptian authority are escalatory measures and I do not know where they are heading. But I know that all the civilized options through which the two countries may arrive at a solution, whether through bilateral negotiations, Arab mediation, or international arbitration, are completely rejected by the Egyptian side.

[Birru] What does Egypt seek to achieve from the escalatory measures since Sudan has announced it has nothing to do with the assassination attempt against President Mubarak?

[Muhammad] Sudan was not the only one to say this. The investigations in Ethiopia even led to this. The international public opinion followed these development with skepticism. No objective bases or reasons were given on this incident. I believe that Egypt has chosen confrontation, escalation, and the military option. I would like to tell you that the Egyptian forces in Hala'ib triangle are now 10 times more than the Sudanese forces. All these measures I have mentioned such as provocations and harassment are in line with that course while the peaceful, civilized, logical options are all rejected. All these are measures by the ruling regime in Egypt. We only reply to them.

[Birru] What do the authorities in Egypt seek to achieve from these measures against Sudan?

[Muhammad] Egypt has been accusing Sudan for a long time of hosting terrorism, opposition members, and that it provides weapons. Egypt and the parties which work with it in this respect, the United States and Israel, did not manage over a period of six years, using all scientific and technological means, satellites, and intelligence services to produce any evidence. They grasped the opportunity provided by the recent incident in Addis Ababa and tried to make a case of it to accuse Sudan. However, God has willed that the truth appears contrary to what they wanted. Egypt is disturbed by Sudan's independent decisionmaking. Sudan remained under Egyptian hegemony for a long time and used to move in its orbit. Egypt found it difficult to accept the new independence of Sudan's policy. Egypt also fears the Islamic trend which governs Sudan because fierce fighting rages between it and the Islamic forces in Egypt. That's why it fears that the Islamic trend in Sudan will spread to it and influence the man in the street. Egypt now is very much disturbed by the fact that Sudan tries to depend on itself in its attempt to redress its domestic situation.

[Birru] But the Egyptian authorities confiscated weapons sent from Sudan to Upper Egypt.

[Muhammad] First, these weapons could have been taken out of the warehouses of the Egyptian Armed Forces and intelligence services. Then, they show them on television and say they come from Sudan. What proof do they have that they come from Sudan? Who saw them? We have not received weapons from the Soviets [as heard] for a long time. This shows that these are lies. The history of the Egyptian intelligence service is known. They remove weapons from the armed forces or intelligence warehouses, take pictures of them, and say that this or that party supplied them. This is part of the machinations which we very well know and which are unsubstantiated.

[Birru] How will Sudan respond to the measures Egypt has taken to complete the imposition of its sovereignty on Hal'a'ib area?

[Muhammad] We know that Hala'ib is within the Sudanese boundaries which the Egyptian Government recognized when Sudan's independence was announced. Egypt was then occupying Sudan. So, how did it recognize these borders if Hala'ib was not part of Sudan in the first place. Now, as you know, the Egyptian Government wishes to turn Hala'ib into an electoral constituency, 40 years after Sudan's independence. This, in itself, means that it was under the Sudanese sovereignty and elections were held there, while Egypt is trying to do that very recently.

At any rate, if Egypt has any right and documents to prove that, we invite it to a direct bilateral dialogue, or to an Arab mediation, or to international arbitration. It, however, rejects all these options. This provides categorical proof that it has no right, but wants to establish its presence in Hala'ib by the use of force. But I do not believe that the use of force will give Egypt any right in Hala'ib, even if it establishes a presence there or builds anything there. Sudan will not allow Egypt to take Hala'ib by force, and if it has to defend itself, it will do so. Sudan, however prefers the options that allow dialogue, mediation, and international arbitration,

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and we will continue to invite Egypt to accept these options. This is because we believe that the shedding of any Egyptian or Sudanese blood is a loss to the two countries and to the entire nation. This will never be our option.

[Birru] Is there any mediation you might announce on Radio Monte Carlo?

[Muhammad] The comming days might show what initiatives the Arab brothers could take. From our part, we announced our stand. We support the options that do not end in blood and confrontation.

Opposition: Regime Part of World 'Terrorism'

NC0907185395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, the legitimate commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces and deputy leader of the opposition National Democratic Grouping, has stressed that the regime of the [National Islamic] Front in Sudan is linked to the world terrorist organization and has extremely high ambitions; namely, the establishment of an Islamic empire extending from north Africa to the Indian Ocean. These are the dreams of al-Turabi, he said, and for this purpose, al-Turabi has approximately 21 camps to train terrorists from all countries, including Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Tunisia, Uganda, Kenya, Zaire, Mauritania, Senegal, and lately Ethiopia and Eritrea. He said some of these camps are in the form of farms and others are closed areas where terrorists are trained in the use of all types of weapons, methods of assassination, preparation of ambushes, handling of explosives, and booby-trapping of cars. The terrorists are also trained to forge documents, hold radio contacts, and other activities.

MENA Reports Opposition's Plan To Topple Regime

NC0807131495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Nairobi, 8 Jul (MENA)—Military sources in the Sudanese opposition National Democratic Grouping [NDG] have told MENA that the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime has drawn up a plan to spread chaos in Sudan if the regime falls at the hands of the united military force which the northern and southern groups in the NDG have agreed to set up. They have agreed to set it up to bring down the regime through direct military action inside Sudan.

These sources said today that the regime's plan calls for distributing the Islamic Front's cadres inside cities and villages to destroy vital and strategic installations, assassinate military and political figures opposed to the regime, and launch a propaganda campaign against the alternative democratic regime's leaders as soon as the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime falls.

It has been learned that the military leadership tasked with preparing the plans for toppling the regime is now drawing up a plan that involves the dispatch of a military strike force to impose control all over the country, prevent the al-Turabi Front's leaders from fleeing the country, and prepare for infiltrating leaders and officials to take control from the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime. The military leadership is also studying ways of ensuring the safety and security of the alternative democratic leadership inside the country and controlling the security and military situation in the south, the al-Nuba Mountains, and (?Alanqasna). These preparations include a plan for restructuring the armed forces, purging them of all elements of the ruling Islamic National Front, liquidating all the armed movements outside the regular army, and establishing a higher defense council and a national security council that will be in charge of normalizing the situation during the transitional period that will follow the regime's fall and the declaration of a cease- fire.

Two More Egyptians Reportedly Arrested in Khartoum

NC0907052995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities this evening arrested two more Egyptians working in the Egyptian Reinforced Concrete Works Company. The detained Egyptians are administrative manager Hasan Salih and chief of auditing Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The Sudanese security authorities had earlier arrested four engineers, including engineer 'Ali al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif, manager of the Khartoum branch.

With the arrest of the six Egyptians, the company's operation will be completely discontinued because the remaining 40 technicians and workers will be without supervisors. It is worth noting that engineer 'Ali al-Sayyid 'Abd-al-Latif recently returned to Khartoum following delicate brain surgery in Germany.

Story of Iraqi Intelligence Chief's Visit Denied

MM0707160995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Sudan Denies Reports About a Secret Visit by Iraqi Intelligence Chief"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A Sudanese official has denied that the

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Iraqi chief of intelligence paid a secret visit to Sudan in the middle of June for talks with Sudanese security and military officials and to coordinate their operations abroad.

The Sudanese official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "the exchange of visits between officials of the two countries is proceeding normally. The latest were the visits of (Police) Major General George Kongor and also Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha. Khartoum has also received a number of senior Iraqi officials. The Sudanese capital is these days playing host to Iraqi Labor and Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, who is attending the celebrations marking the sixth anniversary of the national salvation revolution."

The Sudanese official added: "Relations between the two countries and the exchange of visits between Sudanese and Iraqi officials do not need secrecy fabrications or stories inspired from police adventure books."

Iraqi sources in exile had claimed that, after a secret visit by the Iraqi chief of intelligence to Khartoum, the Iraqi and Sudanese governments had agreed to enhance the activities of the technical and military work teams sent by Baghdad to work in the Sudanese capital.

The sources said that Iraqi intelligence chief Mani' 'Abd-Rashid al-Tikriti had held talks of a practical nature with Sudanese security and military authorities. These sources believe that the two sides agreed to coordinate their operations abroad and to exchange information.

Iraqi Minister Calls For Lifting of U.S. Embargo

EA0707204595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, the Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, has declared that the unjust blockade imposed on his country has worsened living conditions, and led to an increase in the number of deaths including more than 1 million Iraqi children who have died due to a shortage of milk, food, and medicine since the imposition of the blockade five years ago.

He added that the Iraqi citizen's food ration had been reduced by 55 percent. In a press conference he held in Khartoum yesterday, he asked the UN Security Council to lift the unjust embargo in implementation of Article 22 of the council's Resolution No. 687. He said the justifications for the blockade no longer applied, especially after Iraq's compliance with all the resolutions.

He called on Islamic, Arab, and friendly states to support Iraq's stand. He pointed out that to this effect, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had sent delegates to all these states and Western states. Mr. Latif Jasim said his country recognized Kuwait and had got rid of the so-called weapons of mass destruction. On the issue of rockets and biological and chemical weapons he explained that his country had closed this file since 1993 in that they were destroyed with the cooperation of the United Nations. Concerning Iraq's rejection of the United Nations' recent declaration on the sale of Iraqi oil, the allocation of some of its revenue as compensation and the United Nations' supervision over the process of Iraq's purchase of its requirements, he explained that this rejection came on the grounds that this measure meant that it was the United Nations that ruled Iraq and not its government, which was deemed as a flagrant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and the sanctity of its territories.

In his press conference, the Iraqi labor minister praised Sudan's principled stands toward brotherly Iraq. He expressed his country's appreciation at the positive stands adopted by a number of countries which were now calling for the lifting of the blockade on Baghdad, which has abided by the resolutions of the so-called international legitimacy.

In his speech Mr. Latif Jasim also touched on the Egyptian regime's accusations and its provocations against Sudan. He described them as an incident that did not serve the Arab nation. He pointed out that the Iraqi Council of Ministers had in recent meetings dealt with this matter, had confirmed its stand alongside Sudan, and its rejection of the methods used by the agent of Cairo regime, which has become a tool for implementing the Zionist- colonialist designs to harm the Arab and Islamic nation.

The culture and information minister, Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, who attended the conference, affirmed that the Arab and Islamic states should work to remove the blockade on Iraq, which was deemed to be a blockade against the entire [Arab and Islamic] nation and not a blockade against Iraq.

Egypt-U.S. Military Maneuvers Called 'Plot'

AB0707185295 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 7 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The serious falling out between Sudan and Egypt following the assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak, the border clashes in the Hala'ib triangle, and subsequent saber-rattling have

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apparently made the Sudan Government rather jumpy. They are now expressing alarm over joint military maneuvers in the Red Sea in which British and America troops are taking part alongside Egyptian forces. From Khartoum, Alfred Taban telexed this report:

The one-week maneuvers started on Wednesday [6 July] in the Red Sea which borders both Egypt and Sudan. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, Sudan's minister of culture and information, said that the maneuvers constitute a plot against Sudan. The minister, who is also the official spokesman of the government, is today quoted by the independent (AL-RAYAKIA) newspaper as saying that the maneuvers are an indirect threat to the security of Sudan and the Red Sea. He also claimed that the maneuvers are part of an Egyptian conspiracy aimed at drawing Sudan into military confrontation in the region. Sabdarat told another independent daily, (AKBAR AL-YUM), that Sudan has always demanded that the Red Sea area be a region of peace and that the maneuvers threatened that security. He said that the Sudan has been monitoring the maneuvers and accused Egypt of implementing American policies.

Culture Minister's Comments

EA0807150795 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 8 July (SUNA) — 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, minister of culture and information, has said that the military maneuvers being carried out by Egypt, Britain, and the United States in the Red Sea arouse [words indistinct] (?within) the framework of conspiring against Sudan, because Sudan has always been demanding that the Red Sea region be a lake of peace.

These maneuvers are disturbing security in the region. The minister pointed out that Egypt could do better, that it was implementing what was requested from it because it persists in implementing U.S. policy, and that it is a base for foreign fleets which threaten the (?whole) Middle East region. This is not new to the Egyptian regime. [passage omitted]

Government Reportedly To Respect Nile River Water Pact

AB0807151595 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 8 (AFP) — Sudan on Saturday [8 July] said it would abide by its agreement with Egypt to share Nile River water but called on Cairo to respect an accord on a disputed border area as well.

"Egypt should commit itself to joint agreements as Sudan does vis-a-vis these agreements," Sudan's Irrigation Minister, Ya'qub Musa Abu-Shura, said in the official AL-ENGAZ AL-WATANI newspaper.

He said Sudan was still committed to the Nile water agreement signed by Cairo and Khartoum in 1959, but added that Egypt must "equally commit itself to all agreements signed between the two countries, including the border agreement."

Sudan and Egypt have clashed over their border area of Hala'ib, along the Red Sea, where three Sudanese police officers and a soldier were killed last month by the Egyptian Army, according to Khartoum.

Sudan claims that Hala'ib is part of its territory while Egypt says that the international border was established in 1899 during the period of British-Egyptian joint rule over the area.

Sudan's Islamic religious leader, Hassan al-Turabi, has implied that Sudan might reconsider the Nile agreement in the face of Egyptian hostility, a threat that provoked a sharp reaction from Cairo.

However 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, Sudan's information minister, played down the threat and said Turabi's views were personal, not official.

Sudanese Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn, said in Parliament Tuesday that if Egyptian Forces continued to attack Sudanese police in Hala'ib, Sudan would no longer feel obligated to its accords with Egypt, including the Nile agreement.

Relations between the two neighbouring countries have deteriorated since Egyptian President Husni Mubarak implicated Sudan in a failed attempt to kill him in Addis Ababa on June 26, a charge which Khartoum denied.

Al-Bashir Addresses Rally in Jabal Awliya Province

EA0807153795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, this afternoon addressed a mass rally organized by the masses of Jabal Awliya Province, in the (al-Kalakilat) area, on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir affirmed the revolution's desire to provide services for citizens in all fields. He said the revolution would not retreat from its founding principles, which aim to establish a cohesive Muslim society. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir reviewed the revolution's achievements in achieving development and stability in the country.

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The president of the Republic highlighted the Armed Forces' victories in the various operation zones. He said that the Armed Forces were now besieging the rebellion. He said the government had declared a cease-fire from a position of strength and might, in order to achieve peace in the country.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir touched on the moves by the opposition's scattered remnants in Asmara, Cairo, and London, and said these gatherings would not frighten Sudan, nor would they prevent it from proceeding in the course which the revolution has always declared.

In his address before the masses of Jabal Awliya Province, the president affirmed that the National Salvation Revolution was proceeding with its efforts to build and develop Sudan and implement all the major development projects in the country. His excellency added that the revolution would continue to open training camps to train everyone able to bear arms to defend the faith and the homeland. He affirmed that not one inch of Sudan's territory would be relinquished.

Fanjak Region Signs Peace Agreement With Khartoum

AB0907130095 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 9 (AFP) — Sudanese rebels and allied tribes in a southern region agreed to put down their weapons and turn over the area to the government, the state news agency SUNA reported on Sunday [9 July].

Khartoum officials signed a peace agreement with General John Jok, head of the Riak Machar rebel faction, and 15 tribal heads from the Fanjak area in Jonglei province, located 800 kilometers (480 miles) south of Khartoum, SUNA said.

The agreement, part of the government's "peace from within" campaign, placed Fanjak under government administration and lay down a program for rebuilding education, health and agriculture in the region.

The secretary general of the regime's High Council for Peace, Lino Rol Deng, called on other tribes to follow the example of Fanjak's Nuer tribe.

Many tribes in central and south Sudan have allied with Christian-animist rebels who have been fighting a bloody civil war with the mainly Moslem north since 1983.

Jok told the daily Akhbar Al-Youm that he signed the agreement to "achieve a genuine peace with the government and to place the area under the full control of the government." He said he defected along with "all the natives of the area" belonging to Riak Machar and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), "including a number of rebel officers and three 5,500-man-strong battalions."

Tribal chief Tak Tuls said SPLA fighters attacked the region when they heard of the defection and killed 49 people.

Tuls underlined that all the Fanjak cheifs had joined the peace to "repulse any rebel attack" and called on the regime to "push the development process forward", Akhbar al-Youm said.

Government Releases Italian Doctor, Colleague

EA0907131395 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 9, (SUNA) — The armed forces evacuated Saturday [8 July] the Italian physician and his colleague Hashim Zeyada, both working with the Italian CCM [Medical Cooperation Committee] organization, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday.

The source said in a statement, to SUNA, that the government is, meanwhile, continuing talks with the United Nations to secure the release by the outlaws' movement of the four Sudanese hostages.

The four were held captives when the outlaws hijacked their U.N. plane to Chogdom, while they were on a humanitarian mission to evacuate the two physicians, in violation of an agreement the U.N. concluded with the movement. The two physicians, who had been working with the outlaws' movement had arrived at Paryang area of the Upper Nile State from Lockocheko airport, run by the southern sector of the U.N. relief Operation Lifeline-Sudan, without prior permission to enter the country, a matter that is considered as a violation of the country's laws.

Southern Opposition To Begin Radio Operations in Aug

AB0907165395 Paris AFP in French 1352 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (AFP) — The Sudanese opposition will begin operating a radio station in August from rebel-controlled areas in southern Sudan, an official of the opposition National Democratic Alliance [NDA] disclosed to AFP. "In a month at most, the Alliance will begin operating a radio station from areas controlled by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army and will cover the whole of Sudan," General Abdel Rahmane Said, "second in command" of the military leadership which the Alliance has just given itself.

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A civil war has been raging since 1983 between the predominantly animist and Christian south and the Arabo-Muslim north. "The radio will begin with two-hour broadcasts daily in Arabic, English, and other local dialects. It will stigmatize the methods of the Khartoum government and incite the people to rid itself of that government in order to end their sufferings," Gen. Said, a former officer of the Sudanese Army, said. "Several countries have offered to sell us the equipment for this radio station and we will be able to raise the necessary funds to meet the cost," he added. "An African country offered to set up the Alliance's radio station on its territory but we prefer to transmit from within Sudan," he said. According to a leader of the Sudanese opposition in Cairo, the country in question is Eritrea which hosted a big meeting of the NDA in June.

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Gulf Cooperation Council Meeting Held in Manama

JN0907083495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 9 Jul (WAKH) — Foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states held a meeting this morning on the sidelines of the meetings of the foreign ministers of Damascus Declaration states which opened here yesterday.

The meeting dealt with Arab and international issues of concern to the GCC states and coordination and cooperation in various spheres.

Kuwait

Government Approves 'in Principle' Gulf Accord

LD1007085295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 10 Jul (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said today that Kuwait approved in principle the Gulf security agreement and the essential elements on which it is based. He stressed the importance and goals of that agreement in strengthening the security cooperation between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states.

In a press interview with the paper AL WATAN, Shaykh 'Ali pointed out that the Council of Ministers would discuss and study the phenomenon of infiltration through the border trench in northern Kuwait. He pointed out that the implementation of the first measures, such as the laying down of barbed wire along the border trench, had already started.

The minister said there was cooperation and coordination between the Iranian and Kuwaiti authorities to counteract the attempts of infiltration and illegal entry to the country. He said the infiltration attempts would be dealt with in accordance with the adopted measures and specific laws.

He pointed out that the International Organization for Migration had closed its office in Kuwait because there was no need for it and that proved that Kuwait respected law and human rights.

Shaykh 'Ali denied there were any violations of human rights in Kuwait and stressed that the competent authorities in Kuwait did not accept violation of human rights in any form.

He stressed there were no political prisoners in Kuwait and pointed out that the international organizations praised the way Kuwait treated people through the respect of their rights and through providing all legal guarantees for them.

The minister said there was an amendment to the constituencies and that the amendment would be implemented in the 1996 elections because of the emergence of new population centers that are not registered in the current constituencies.

Foreign Minister on Meetings in Bahrain

LD0907182995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, said that the document of the framework for action, which was arrived at by the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign affairs ministers, represented a contribution from these countries for activating joint Arab action, and their concern for pushing that action towards horizons to which all aspired under the rapid regional and international changes.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir added, in a statement he gave after his return to the country from Manama this evening, that the arrival at such a document stressed that the Damascus Declaration countries were still enjoying vitality and were concerned with providing the required guarantees for joint Arab action following the crisis of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, and the imbalance it caused to that action and its structure. [passage omitted]

Official Praises Military Cooperation With Russia

LD0707163895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1540 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 7 Jul (KUNA) — Staff Colonel Ahmad Salman al-Najadi, the head of the Kuwaiti Military Liaison Office here, today praised the level of military cooperation and coordination between Kuwait and the Russian Federation.

In a press statement to KUNA and the Russian paper VIK [name as received], Colonel Najadi said that Kuwaiti-Russian military cooperation came within the framework of the joint security agreement signed by the two countries in November 1993.

Kuwait signed a reciprocal security agreement with the Russian Federation that provided for the exchange of military expertise and combat technology, and for the preparation of training programs for military cadres between the two countries.

He explained that joint military cooperation represented the continuation and strengthening of the excellent relations between the two countries in various fields.

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Colonel Ahmad al-Najadi said that "Kuwait's interest in developing military relations with the Russian Federation springs from the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry's eagerness to diversify the sources of armaments for the Kuwaiti Army, and to obtain advanced military technology from all arms-manufacturing states."

It is recalled that Kuwait concluded a deal for the purchase of advanced missiles, and missile launchers worth about $800 million.

Staff Colonel Ahmad al-Najadi stressed that cooperation and coordination at the military level will guarantee the creation of a state of stability and bolster security both in Kuwait and in the states of the Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Iraqis Said Leaving Iraq, Iran for Kuwait by Sea

LD0807162995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1520 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 8 Jul (KUNA) — Interior Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah confirmed today the news of the flow of Iraqi families from Iraq and Iran to Kuwait by sea, but said that most of them have been returned to where they came from.

Shaykh 'Ali al-Sabah said in a statement to correspondents during a recess of the National Assembly, which was holding a special session to discuss the Government's statement on the general budget of the State of Kuwait, that "the refugees numbered around 200 people, including children and women, and that most of them were returned to where they came from after they were provided with the necessary foodstuffs for the return journey."

Replying to a question from KUNA, he said that the Kuwaiti Island of Faylakah, northeast of the capital Kuwait, is the "present sanctuary for the refugees."

He said that "Faylakah Island is the center for gathering those Iraqis who are looking for safety and a decent living away from the hell of the Iraqi regime."

However, the interior minister did not exclude the possibility that among the refugees "are those who have arrived for purposes planned by the Iraqi regime."

The local 'AL-WATAN' newspaper, which published the news today, also says that orders were issued to all the escaping families to remain at one of the schools on Faylakah Island as a temporary accommodation until a suitable solution is found to "the crisis of the collective exodus by sea for the State of Kuwait."

In his statement, the interior minister pointed to the death of a woman among the refugees, and to the existence of another refugee being treated for a broken foot.

UNHCR: No Refugees on Faylakah

LD0907203995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1722 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait City, 9 Jul (KUNA) — Following an exploratory tour of Faylakah Island, Ambassador Dr. Mustafa 'Umar, the director of the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] office, denied the existence of any traces indicative of the presence of any Iraqi or non-Iraqi refugees on the island.

In a statement to the press following the tour in which he was accompanied by the Red Cross's acting regional commissioner, he said: "After the surprise visit it became clear to us that the reports carried by the press this week regarding the presence of people on this island, which has been deserted for many years, are untrue."

He added: "It has been proven beyond doubt that there are no Iraqi or non-Iraqi refugees at all."

Some press reports yesterday talked about the mass exodus of Iraqis from Iran and Iraq.

Jean Claude, the acting regional commissioner of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who took part in the exploratory tour of the island confirmed "the absence of any human being on this island, which has been deserted for many years. He also confirmed that "there is no evidence of the presence of people on this small island."

He said: "We visited most of the places that could accommodate large numbers," adding that there is no truth in what was reported about the presence of Iraqi refugees coming from Iraq or Iran to the island.

Claude, who has a long experience in the affairs of refugees, said: "A small island cannot accommodate the scores of people who have reportedly come to this island and who have been estimated at 200. We have visited all the places that could accommodate such numbers."

He commended the cooperation and facilitation the Ministry of Interior, particularly the coastguard, provided to facilitate the investigation of the UNHCR and the International Red Cross into the presence of refugees on the island.

Colonel Muhammad Jabr al-Fahd, director of the Department of Liaison with International Organizations at the Ministry of Interior, accompanied the international mission on the tour that began this morning.

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Bosnian Envoy Delivers Message to Amir

LD0907110895 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His highness the amir received his excellency the ambassador of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Kuwait at 1230 today. The ambassador conveyed to his highness a message from the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Qatar

Call Reportedly Received on Release of U.S. Citizens

JN0907103495 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The Qatari Government received a secret call from the Iraqi leadership a few weeks ago, asking it to send the Qatari foreign minister on a visit to Iraq. The Iraqi leadership told the Qatari Government that the aim of the visit was to hand over the two Americans held in Iraq to the Qatari minister as a goodwill gesture toward Washington and as a sign of confidence in the policy pursued by the Qatari Government.

The Qatari Government wasted no time. It quickly contacted Washington to inform it of the Iraqi offer. Washington's reaction was that this offer was a good step, but that it could not reciprocate this move if the Iraqi leadership was counting on a reciprocal measure from it. Washington advised Doha to ascertain the authenticity of the Iraqi offer before sending its foreign minister on a visit to Baghdad by asking Baghdad to send a written document stating that the aim of the visit was to hand over the two Americans it is currently holding. This advice by the Americans was prompted by Washington's conviction that Baghdad's offer might not be serious, and that the aim of the offer might have been to create further bones of contention among members of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Washington asserted that the release of the two Americans in question would not be reciprocated by any U.S. move Baghdad might have envisaged. Nonetheless, Washington considered the adoption of a limited and positive move toward a relaxation in bilateral ties once the two Americans held in Iraq are released. Qatar hurriedly contacted the Iraqi Government and asked it to confirm in writing that the aim of the visit was to hand over the two Americans. Baghdad waited for several days before answering that the confirmation in writing was in the offing, and that Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf would carry a clear message to this effect. Moreover, Baghdad asked the Qatari Government to send a special plane to fly al-Sahhaf from Amman to Doha; and so did the Qatari Government.

But when the Iraqi minister arrived in Doha, the Qatari Government was surprised that the message he carried only contained nice words stating that Baghdad was awaiting the visit of the Qatari foreign minister, and that the visit would produce good news. The Iraqi minister did not frankly address the purpose for which a visit to Baghdad by the Qatari foreign minister was requested.

Given all this, the Qatari Government was compelled to shelve a visit to Baghdad by its foreign minister and received the Iraqi minister with the hospitality that befits a guest. The whole episode ended at that.

Amir on Border Disputes, Ties With Iraq, Israel

JN0907180295 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Interview with Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani by unidentified "BBC television Arabic section" correspondent in Doha; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Your Highness, to begin with, is it possible to tell us about the reasons which made you make this decision and take this step of assuming power in the State of Qatar?

[Hamad] Well, you know, this is an internal issue and I do not like to discuss it. Of course, I and the Qatari people will continue to love and respect my father. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your Highness, let us move to another topic. There is the border dispute between the State of Qatar and some Gulf Cooperation Council countries. These differences, as yet, remain unsolved and have an impact on events despite reports that some of these disputes have been solved. We specifically mention the border dispute with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Do you envisage a solution to these border disputes under the canopy of the current circumstances?

[Hamad] We sincerely wish to solve this simple problem with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I believe that efforts by the custodian of the two holy mosques will contribute to solving this problem. With respect to Bahrain, our issue with Bahrain has been referred to the International Court of Justice [ICJ]. However, in the 1990 agreement between us and Bahrain, we said that if the two parties reach acceptable results through the Saudi mediator, then the case will be withdrawn from the ICJ. We hope to reach a brotherly solution through the mediator that will satisfy the two parties. Otherwise, we will have to wait until the ICJ decides on this issue. [passage omitted]

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[Correspondent] What about relations between Qatar and Israel in light of the current peace process?

[Hamad] We went to Madrid. We were not of the Arab countries that took the first step in the peace process. The right thing to do now following the Madrid conference where we were represented within the GCC delegation is to support this process, especially since the Palestinians who are the first involved in the issue had blessed this step. This being the case, we said that we too should move in the same direction. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is your stand on Iraq. Do you support lifting the sanctions from Iraq?

[Hamad] It goes without saying that we in Qatar support the UN resolutions. This is our explicit stand, and the Iraqi brothers know this. But, the tribulation of the Iraqi people—you know that the Iraqi people—tribes, and families have ties with the GCC countries citizens. I believe it is a mistake not to pay attention to the Iraqi people, or to leave them in this state.

[Correspondent] Your Highness, we thank you very much.

Shaykh Hamad Seeks Resolution of Border Disputes

JN0807205595 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the beloved amir of the country, has reaffirmed the State of Qatar's concern to develop relations among the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states to achieve stability and security in the region. His highness expressed hope that border differences between the GCC states will be resolved. In an interview with the BBC broadcast today, his highness the beloved amir, may God preserve him, asserted that the State of Qatar will continue to support the Middle East peace process.

Asked about the reasons which prompted his highness to take the decision to assume power, his highness the amir said: This is an internal issue and I do not like to discuss it. However, my father will continue to be loved by me, as well as by the Qatari people.

Shaykh Hamad Urges Arab Reconciliation With Saddam

JN0907085295 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 9

[FBIS Translated Text] London—A Qatari envoy arrived in Baghdad early last week carrying a message from new Qatari Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message reiterates that the amir's policy toward the "Iraqi people's ordeal" which he has pursued since 1992, when he was heir apparent, will remain unchanged.

Gulf sources in London said that the message also included a new call for a blanket Arab reconciliation that would "return to all parties their rights," stem the ongoing deterioration in the Middle East, and curb the "worrying external domination of its resources."

The Qatari envoy's arrival in the Iraqi capital coincided with a statement by Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, in which he expressed his country's support for Hamad Bin-Khalifah's assumption of power and lauded his "courageous positions" toward the ongoing inter-Gulf conflict.

The Gulf sources added that the expectations of the Saudi media last week that the new Qatari administration will reconsider its previous political stands run counter to the affirmations of the new Qatari ruler, and also to Riyadh's reluctant and cautious response to the new move in Qatar. The sources noted that this Saudi campaign was directed at Iraq and Iran. It is to be recalled that another envoy of Shaykh Hamad will arrive in Iran with a message to Rafsanjani, reiterating that Qatar's policy of rapprochement with Tehran will remain unchanged.

The sources revealed that the new Qatari administration is strongly contemplating visits to the Sultanate of Oman and Jordan by Shaykh Hamad within the next two months. Oman and Jordan were the first two countries to recognize his new regime. The new Qatari amir will also visit Iraq and Iran. These visits will be followed by a U.S. and European tour toward the end of this year.

Former Amir Reportedly Persuaded To Return Home

MM0707152795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab: "Shaykh 'Abdallah To Be Appointed Prime Minister Soon; Former Amir of Qatar to Return to Doha After Summer Vacation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Doha — Informed Qatari sources expect former Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani to return to Doha at the end of next September.

The sources said that Shaykh Khalifah, who is now in Cannes in the south of France, is now on his usual annual summer vacation, which this year may be a few weeks longer.

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They said that Shaykh Khalifah has been in the habit of taking his vacation at the end of an official tour, which is what happened this year.

The same sources said it was unlikely that the former amir would live anywhere other than Qatar when he decides to leave France. They said: "He would only return to Doha. All indications point to that."

The sources revealed that the Amir Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani was giving this matter his personal attention and was determined that his father should return to Qatar, where he would be honored and welcomed.

Shaykh Hamad had last week sent former Amiri Court Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kawari as envoy to his father to try to persuade him to accept the new situation and the circumstances which necessitated it and to agree to return to Qatar.

The sources said al-Kawari, who is very close to Shaykh Khalifah, appears to have succeeded in his mission.

Al-Kawari flew to Cannes aboard a private aircraft with a message from Shaykh Hamad to his father. Other sources say that some members of the ruling family who are already in or who intend to visit Cannes later will in turn try to persuade Shaykh Khalifah to return to Qatar. These sources say that anyone who knows the history of Qatar knows very well that Shaykh Khalifah's stage abroad will not last.

Meanwhile informed sources expect the Amir of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah to appoint his brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah, currently interior minister, as prime minister.

That, they said, is almost certain and will be announced in the coming few weeks.

Gas Project Leads Nation to Dominant Energy Role

NC0907124495 Paris AFP in English
1222 GMT 9 Jul 95

[By Nadim Kawash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, July 9 (AFP) — Qatar, a minor OPEC member, is set to become a dominant force in the global energy market as it presses ahead with the world's largest liquefied natural gas [LNG] project, experts say.

Sitting on the third biggest natural gas reserves in the world, the tiny Gulf oil producer expects to become the top LNG supplier when the giant North Field project is commissioned in a few years.

Japan, South Korea and several other Asian countries will be heavily reliant on its LNG under long-term supply deals, as the continent is set to become one of the biggest gas consumers in the world after the year 2000.

Qatar's new ruler, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, who overthrew his father in a bloodless palace coup last week, is expected to push ahead with the two-phase venture and spur fresh investment in the world's largest gas reservoir.

"From the way he has run Qatar in the past two years, one can see the economy is one of Shaykh Hamad's priorities," an oil-industry official in Doha said.

"He will probably open the door for more investment in gas as this will expand the country's industrial base and diversify its economy."

The North Field project, part of which has been launched, will eventually produce around 16 million tonnes of LNG, according to the government, exceeding the 13.8 million tonnes produced by the world's current top LNG exporter, Indonesia.

Investments in the scheme are expected to total more than 10 billion dollars, provided by the Qatari government and several foreign partners, including US-based Mobil and Total of France.

The North Field venture will tap the emirate's huge natural gas reserves, officially estimated at 7.079 trillion cubic metres (235.9 trillion cubic feet). They are third to reserves in Russia and Iran.

"There is no doubt the project will transform Qatar from a negligible oil producer into a dominant force in the world's energy market, given the growing significance of gas as a cleaner source of energy," an oil executive said.

Qatar is the second-smallest oil producer in the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), with an output quota of 378,000 barrels per day (bpd). Gabon, which has threatened to pull out, has a quota of 287,000 bpd.

Experts said Qatar's massive gas reserves would also enable it to expand its petrochemical industry and secure further funds to finance development.

They noted that at the production rate expected from the North Field venture, its gas reserves could last more than 360 years. This is in contrast with its small crude reserves, estimated at around four billion barrels.

The amount of income the North Field project will fetch Qatar is unclear, but experts said this depended on the supply contracts with buyers.

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However, they added the earnings would be sizeable given the large production and the growing consumption of gas in Asia and other areas.

Independent estimates showed world gas demand is growing faster than that of oil as several countries are switching to gas due to increasing environmental concerns.

A breakdown showed that while oil demand is projected to increase by around 62 percent to 91 million bpd in the year 2020 from 56 million bpd in 1990, gas consumption is forecast to more than double to 71 million equivalent bpd from 34 million equivalent bpd.

Gas demand could reach around 73 million equivalent bpd with higher economic growth.

Qatar also plans to supply its oil-rich Gulf neighbors with natural gas through an ambitious pipeline project, and has announced its willingness to sell gas to Israel.

"Qatar, as an oil country like its neighbours, will be much different," Ihsan Abu Hulayka, an expert at the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy, wrote Saturday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al-Khalij.

"It will see a second economic boom as its gas is important not only for its coffers but for Japan, South Korea, India and many others. Gas earnings will also enable it to launch fresh steps to diversify its economy."

Saudi Arabia

Ministry Denies Purchase of Pakistani Plane

LD0807194995 Riyadh SPA in English 1924 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 8, SPA — An official source at the Ministry of Defence and Aviation has categorically denied a report officially announced in Islamabad on Thursday evening, July 6, 1995, through the Pakistani television.

The report said that the president of Anent group companies in Riyadh had signed an agreement with with the group of Pakistani Aviation Affairs to boost the sales of the training plane, 'Mushtaq', manufactured by Pakistan.

The report is baseless and fabricated, said the official source in a statement to SPA and added 'it is the policy of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sign arms contracts including contracts of planes with the concerned manufacturing governments without mediators'.

Envoy: Saudi Opposition Not Welcome in Britain

LD0807054595 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] David Gore-Booth, British ambassador to the Kingdom, has hailed the close relations existing between the Kingdom and Britain in all areas. At a news conference given in London, he said that relations between the two countries had been strengthened in various areas, ranging from commercial relations and arms purchases to political and economic relations and others.

He added that the two countries, the Kingdom and Britain, were (?stable) and that each belonged to regional groupings, with Britain occupying a prominent place in the activities of the European Union [as heard], while Saudi Arabia was at the heart of Gulf cooperation.

The British ambassador also said that the so-called Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights was not welcome in Britain and had not been asked to come to Britain. He added that the chairman of this committee was abusing British hospitality and that the only way to deal with him was to give him less importance, whether he was present in Britain or Saudi Arabia. He further said: There is a constitutional dilemma regarding his activities on British soil. Despite this, it must be stressed that British-Saudi relations are excellent and stronger.

The British ambassador said that the "offset program," part of the al-Yamamah project set up by the two countries, had made good progress in various industrial areas. He added that six projects have been carried out within this framework and that many more are going to emerge. British Aerospace and the British Government are strengthening joint ventures between the two countries. He also said that investments in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had to continue and that more Saudi products had to be exported to the British and European markets.

The British ambassador also rejected reports by British newspapers on the negative aspects of the Saudi economy and said: The Saudi economy is now more radiant than ever before. There are two main elements that have contributed to the strength of the Saudi economy, namely a rise in oil prices and the measures taken by the Kingdom.

Yemen

Iraqi, Sudanese Ministers Arrive in Sanaa

NC0907070695 Paris AFP in English 2137 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, July 8 (AFP) — Iraqi and Sudanese ministers arrived here separately Saturday

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[8 July] to deliver messages from their heads of state to Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, official SABA' news agency reported.

Iraqi Labour and Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said the letter from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn centred on "relations between Iraq and the UN Security Council."

Baghdad has been trying to get the United Nations to lift sanctions imposed on the country after the 1991 Gulf War. Yemen backed Iraq in its occupation of Kuwait which led to the conflict, a stance which soured its relations with the Gulf monarchies.

Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, said his message from General 'Umar al-Bashir was based on "questions of mutual interest to the two countries and the Arab world in general."

Salih Meets Iraqi Minister

JN0907125195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, received brother Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of labor and social affairs, who conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. The message deals with fraternal relations and issues and developments that concern the two sisterly states and our Arab nation.

The message also deals with the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the continuation of an economic siege on them, and emphasizes Iraq's confirmation of its implementation of all Security Council resolutions relevant to the Gulf crisis, in addition to international developments of mutual interest.

The brother president asked the Iraqi minister to convey his greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn, and his wishes to him and to the fraternal Iraqi people of continued progress and prosperity. He stressed that the international community should shoulder its responsibility by ending the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people caused by the continued economic siege.

The meeting was attended by brother Muhmmad 'Abdallah al-Bitani, minister of social security and social affairs and labor, and Dr. Muhsin Khalil, the Iraqi ambassador to our country.

Salih Meets Sudanese Minister

JN0907191095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the country, received brother Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman Isma'il, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, who conveyed a message to the brother president from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, president of the Republic of Sudan. The message deals with the fraternal relations and issues and developments that concern the two sisterly states on the fraternal and pan-Arab levels, in addition to international developments of mutual concern.

The brother president asked him to convey his greetings to his brother President al-Bashir, and his wishes to him of continued good health, and further progress and prosperity to the fraternal Sudanese people.

He stressed our country's support for the efforts aimed to restore Arab solidarity and solve differences among brothers through fraternal dialogue and understanding, and in a manner that realizes the higher interest of the nation.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Hasan al-Salami, adviser to the president of the republic, and Taha 'Umar al-Sayyid Taha, Sudanese ambassador to our country.

Speaker Returns From Saudi, Qatar, UK Visits

JN0707175195 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, returned to Sanaa this afternoon following visits to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Kingdom.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the speaker of the House of Representatives said that his official visit to sisterly Qatar was intended to convey the congratulations and good wishes of Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the Yemeni people to Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, amir of Qatar, on the occasion of his assumption of power and leadership of the brotherly Qatari people.

He was welcomed by a number of ministers, House of Representatives members, and officials.

Qatari Interior Minister Departs

JN0907203095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received Qatari Interior Minister

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His Highness Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Salman Al Thani this afternoon. The Qatari minister conveyed to the president a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the amir of sisterly Qatar. The message deals with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in the interest of the two sisterly countries. The message also deals with regional, Arab, and international developments of interest to the two sisterly countries and the Arab nation. The messages conveys thanks for the brother president's congratulations to His Highness Shaykh Hamad on the occasion of his assumption of power in Qatar.

During the meeting, the brother president wished His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah and the brothers in Qatar further success in serving their people's welfare and progress. He stressed the strong brotherly relations between the two countries and praised the Qatari brothers' support for our people and their unity during the secession ordeal.

The meeting was attended by Interior Minister brother Staff Colonel Husayn 'Arab and Qatari Ambassador Muhammad 'Ali al-Ansari.

The Qatari interior minister left Sanaa this evening.

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Foreign Minister Says Germ Agents Destroyed

MM0707145995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 July 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Raghidah Dirgham: "Al-Sahhaf Says Iraq Destroyed Germ Program Because It Was Dangerous"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York — Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has told AL-HAYAH that Baghdad intends to hand over the information about its germ program "in the middle of the month." He described as "absurd" what was mentioned in the report prepared by Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, head of the committee tasked with dismantling the banned weapons, namely that Iraq had refused to destroy equipment used in missile motors.

Al-Sahhaf criticized U.S. representative to the United Nations Madeleine Albright for issuing a statement on the Ekeus report and the missile equipment question, in which she said that "Ekeus said that Iraq has not implemented a measure. I can say in simple and clear English that (President) Saddam Husayn has made another stupid decision to harm himself and the Iraqi people."

The Iraqi Foreign Minister described Albright's statement as "impolite and damaging to her country, as she has given a bad image of it, and her statement is absurd." [passage omitted]

Al-Sahhaf told AL-HAYAH: "There are no germ weapons. We explained to Mr. Ekeus that there was research on producing germ elements. This was an intermediate stage in which the Iraqi program was terminated and these elements were destroyed."

He added: "We said that our researches had produced the germ elements. It was an intermediate stage, which, if continued, would have been considered nondefensive." He stressed that the Iraqi program "ended at that point, and the germ elements were destroyed because they were dangerous. That is what we told Ekeus."

The minister said that what was mentioned in the special committee head's report, namely Iraq's admission for the first time that its germ program "was offensive in nature," concerned the nature of the researches before the program was terminated. He said: "We will hand over the information (about the program) in the middle of this month. We hope that the scrutiny and investigation will be completed speedily."

On Iraq's refusal to destroy equipment used in the manufacture of missiles according to the special committee head's report, al-Sahhaf said: "There are five machines. Not all of them, but parts of them, are dual-purpose. Iraq and the committee's (experts) put these parts into boxes which were sealed in 1992. They are under observation, and the dual-purpose parts are in sealed boxes, so it is absurd to talk about them."

Al-Sahhaf denied in statements to journalists that Iraq had refused to destroy the five machines. And he stressed that what was mentioned in the Ekeus report was "untrue." Baghdad had informed him during his recent visit that, if the committee decided that it was necessary to destroy any equipment, "he should submit a list of it to the Iraqi side, and we would deal with this list adequately."

Justifying Baghdad's destruction of the germ material that could be used in manufacturing weapons before the Gulf war broke out in 1990, the Iraqi foreign minister said that "it is very dangerous to keep such materials. We are no longer interested in that field. When we reached that stage (of the germ program), we discovered that it was of no importance to us, so we destroyed it because it was dangerous to keep or put (these materials) in depots."

AL-Sahhaf told AL-HAYAH that the Russian-French-Chinese initiative that the three states intend to adopt at the Security Council after Ekeus completes his mission in order to implement Clause 22 of Resolution 687, which links the lifting of the oil blockade to the elimination of the banned weapons, "will certainly be presented. Logic says that it (the initiative) will be presented after Ekeus submits his final report."

On his visit to New York and meetings with representatives of the Security Council member states, al-Sahhaf said that its aim "is to continue the contacts as long as there is discussion of Iraq in the run-up to the review of the sanctions," expected to take place next Tuesday. He added that he had explained "what we achieved with Ekeus and the special committee during his recent visit to Baghdad, and we told them that that task should be completed by the end of August. Once it is completed, the Security Council must respond to Iraq's rights by lifting the oil blockade." [passage omitted]

IAEA Official on Progress of Monitoring Work

NC0907114695 Paris AFP in English 1003 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 9 (AFP) — A monitoring system to prevent Iraq from developing nuclear weapons was working in a "routine manner," a team of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) experts said Sunday [9 July].

"My stay here in the last four days was profitable," the head of the IAEA mission, Maurizio Zifferero, said before leaving here for Bahrain.

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"The monitoring system is working in a routine manner," he told reporters. "There is no problem concerning the nuclear file. The file is okay."

But he added more work had to be done.

"We are not finished. We have a resident team here. I just came to clarify some small issues," he said without elaborating.

Under 1991 Gulf war ceasefire resolutions, Iraq must dismantle all its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term monitoring to obtain a lifting of the oil embargo imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Vienna-based IAEA says Iraq has dismantled its capacity to make nuclear arms, but maintains it has the right to permanently monitor Baghdad.

Meanwhile, the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) for disarming Iraq said the nuclear, chemical and ballistic weapons programs have been practically eliminated, although doubts linger about Baghdad's ability to wage germ warfare.

The UN Security Council is to review the sanctions, as it does every 60 days, on Tuesday.

Iran Said To Cross Border Iraq, Attack MKO Camp

NC0907114095 Paris AFP in English 0939 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 9 (AFP) — Iranian troops rocketed Sunday [9 July] the country's main armed opposition group at a base inside Iraq after slipping across the border, but caused no casualties, the People's Mujahedeen [Mojahedin-e Khalq] [MKO] group said.

Revolutionary Guards hit Ashraf Camp with five 107 mm Katyusha rockets after staging the pre-dawn attack seven kilometers (four miles) from the camp, the Mujahedin said in a statement.

Other rockets landed outside the camp, which is east of Baghdad and about 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of the border.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq's National Liberation Army took control of the site where the attack was staged about 45 minutes later and seized rocket launchers, the group said in a statement. Access to the area had been mined.

Mojahedin-e Khalq leader Mas'ud Rajavi told UN Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali in a letter that the attack "was the 34th military or terrorist attack staged by the Iranian regime against the Mujahedin in Iraq since the start of 1993."

The last Iranian attack against Ashraf camp was staged on October 19, 1994.

On May 17 the Mujahedin accused Iran of ordering a machine-gun attack that killed two of its women leaders.

The group, based in Iraq since 1986, created the National Liberation Army in January 1987, which has between 10,000 to 15,000 fighters. They mounted large-scale operations in Iran in 1988.

Spokesman on Iranian 'Aggression'

JN0907182195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1735 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Statement by "a Foreign Ministry spokesman" to the Iraqi News Agency; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] At 0415 [0015 GMT] on 9 July 1995, elements from the Iranian [Revolutionary] Guards infiltrated inside Iraqi territory and attacked an Iraqi civilian site, located some 100 km to the northeast of Baghdad. They fired five 107-mm katyusha rockets. No human losses were reported as a result of this unjustified aggression, which caused some damage to civilian property.

Iraq strongly protests and denounces this aggressive Iranian act and holds the Iranian Government fully responsible for it. Iraq further reserves its full right to the legitimate defense against Iranian aggression at the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner. The Iranian regime's continued attacks against Iraq under feeble excuses and pretexts, and claiming that such acts are directed against Iraq-based Iranian forces opposing the regime, are both reprehensible and ridiculous. Iran knows very well that the Iranian forces opposing the Iranian regime exist, and are active inside Iran itself, and that they have branches in several states in the world, including some neighboring states. That regime should have directed its rockets and subversive activities against those states also if its claims that it wishes to pursue the Iranian opposition forces are true.

The Iranian regime's insistence on such practices and aggressive acts against Iraq contradicts the Iranian officials' claims on their keenness to resolve the standing problems with Iraq and to establish normal relations between the two countries. Such keenness requires an end to such aggressive acts against Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and the security of its people.

The Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires and handed him a strongly-worded official

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memorandum of protest against this aggression to convey to Iran.

In a related development, the acting foreign minister sent a letter to the UN secretary general to strongly protest the Iranian aggression and to lodge a complaint against the Iranian regime for committing a fresh aggression against Iraqi territory.

Press Teams Visit Camp

JN0907183295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1738 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Press delegations representing Arab and foreign television networks, newspapers, and news agencies, and INA have visited the Ashraf camp which belongs to the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in the al-Khalis area in the Diyala Governorate, which was hit by missiles fired by the Iranian regime's forces earlier today.

The press and media delegations listened to a detailed briefing by a responsible source at the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization. The source pointed out that the Iranian regime launched a failed missile attack on the Ashraf camp at dawn today, using 107-mm Katyusha rockets from a distance of 7 km away from the camp inside Iraqi territory.

The source noted that five missiles were fired, and that only one vehicle was damaged during the attack. The source said that they [Mojahedin-e Khalq men] found a quantity of U.S.-made and Israeli-made anti-personnel and anti—tank mines planted in an agricultural area between the camp and the attack site by the Iranian regime's infiltrators who attacked the Ashraf camp.

The source said that the organization's factions returned extensive fire at the infiltrators and forced them to flee, leaving behind missile-launching equipment, missile containers, and mines which were defused by the Iranian resistance men.

The press delegations which visited the camp inspected the attack site and the weapons and equipment left behind by the Iranian infiltrators.

MKO Spokesman on Base Attack

LD1007084895 Tehran IRNA in English 0716 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, July 10, IRNA — The headquarters of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), 70 km northern Baghdad, was pounded by 14 missiles of the Iraqi Muslim mujahidin Sunday [9 July], a spokesman for Iraqi mujahidin announced.

Speaking to IRNA here in a telephone contact, the spokesman said the Muslim mujahidin assume the responsibility for the operation which was part of a series of operations aimed at eradicating the terrorist MKO in Iraq.

In a statement released later, the Baghdad-based MKO confirmed that its headquarters called 'Ashraf' had been targetted by missile attack.

The spokesman added that Muslim mujahidin considered MKO terrorists as agents of Saddam Husayn and believed that Iraqi Kurds in northern and southern Iraq had been massacred by MKO agents.

He stressed that Muslim mujahidin would continue their attacks against MKO till the complete withdrawal of the terrorist group from Iraq.

Neither the spokesman nor the MKO referred to the extent of casualties or damage in Sunday [9 July] attack on the headquarters.

Gunmen Reportedly Shoot, Kill 3 MKO Officials

NC1007065995 Paris AFP in English 0648 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 10 (AFP)—Gunmen on Monday [10 July] shot and killed three officials of Iran's main armed opposition group in Iraq, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] group said.

The four attackers sprayed the three men with machine gun fire as they travelled in a car in the Iraqi capital around 8 a.m. (0400 GMT), the group said in a statement.

MKO Blames 'Agents of Iranian Regime'

NC1007073095 Paris AFP in English 0659 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Baghdad, July 10 (AFP)—Gunmen on Monday [10 July] shot and killed three officials of Iran's main armed opposition group in Iraq, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] group said. [passage omitted]

The MKO blamed the attack on "agents of the Iranian regime" and said two of the assailants were captured, one of whom was Iranian.

The attack came a day after the group said Iranian Revolutionary Guards fired rockets at a MKO base inside Iraq and almost two months after two MKO officials, both women, were gunned down in Baghdad.

MKO leaders also blamed Iran for the two other assassinations.

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MKO Blames Iranian Embassy

NC1007133995 Paris AFP in English
1311 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Report by Farouk Choukri; Iranian names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 10 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead three officials of Iran's main armed opposition group in Iraq on Monday [10 July] when they opened fire on their car with automatic arms and anti-tank rockets, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] said.

MKO spokesman Farid Slimani accused the Iranian embassy of "directing" the attack in Baghdad and said one of the three gunmen, an Iranian, was arrested after a 20-kilometer (12-mile) car chase and gunfight.

He earlier said there were four gunmen.

The assailants opened fire from behind on two MKO vehicles, killing all three in the first car, as they drove to their camp at Ashraf, which was hit Sunday in a rocket attack also blamed on Tehran, Slimani said.

He said the assailants hit their victims with Israeli-made Uzi submachine guns and Kalashnikov automatic rifles. They also fired two RPG-18 anti-tank rockets but missed their target.

MKO officials in the second car chased the assailants to southern Baghdad, braving automatic weapons fire and hand grenades before they captured one suspect and wounded the other two who managed to flee on foot.

The suspect who was handed over to Iraqi authorities has admitted involvement in a similar May 17 attack here in which two female MKO officials were killed and a third wounded, Slimani said.

The car that was seized contained five grenades, three Uzis, two Kalashnikovs, and one RPG-18, as well as papers revealing how the attackers had worked, the MKO spokesman said.

The three victims were identified as Sayyid Hussein Sudeiry, 34, Ibrahim Suleymi, 36, and Bari 'Ali Kartabar, 33, all of whom have worked for the organization since 1979.

Their bodies were riddled with 10 bullets each.

Slimani said the Iranian embassy was "entirely responsible" for Monday's attack, adding that the MKO renewed a request to Iraqi authorities to close the mission.

MKO leader Mas'ud Rajavi has also sent a telegram to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the UN Security Council urging international sanctions against Iran.

Rajavi urged Iraq to prosecute and punish those found guilty of the attack.

Slimani said Monday's shooting "was the 35th military or terrorist attack" Iran has staged against the MKO in Iraq since the start of 1993.

Iran, which has accused the MKO of carrying out most of the attacks inside its borders since 1981, officially asked Iraq in May to extradite Rajavi and other leaders of the group.

But the request was rejected.

Iraq, which denounced Sunday's rocket attack on Ashraf camp, has questioned Iran's willingness to normalize ties following the 1980- 1988 war between the two countries. There were no casualties reported in the attack on Ashraf.

KDP Details Casualties in Turkish Offensive

NC1007122295 Paris AFP in English
1154 GMT 10 Jul 95

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Zakho, Iraq, July 10 (AFP)—Turkish troops have killed four Iraqi Kurd civilians and wounded seven in their six-day offensive in northern Iraq, Kurdish officials said Monday [10 July].

The troops had "raided seven villages, damaging a lot of houses, killed four civilians and injured seven," Bruska Shaways, a leading member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) told AFP.

He said the offensive was launched "by foot, helicopter and jets" on Wednesday without the Iraqi Kurds being informed ahead of the incursion.

"The Turks entered with 6,000 soldiers by foot a remote border area east of Zakho which cannot be reached by car. They didn't cross the official border crossing point of Ibrahim al-Khalil near Zakho," Shaways said. Ankara has said 3,000 troops are involved.

Turkey has denied charges of causing civilian casualties or that thousands of Iraq Kurds have fled their homes during the military operation to flush out guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). [passage omitted]

U.S. Assailed for 'Support' of Turkish 'Invasion'

JN0907080295 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0650 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has branded as flagrant deception the U.S. claims that international law allows

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Turkey to invade northern Iraq to defend itself because Iraq "is incapable" of controlling the situation there. These claims, the paper adds, reflect a deeply flawed logic.

In an article published today, the paper wonders: Why is the United States extending such strong support to the Turkish invasion, particularly since it has long claimed to be opposed to interference in other states' domestic affairs? Who violated northern Iraq and acted in defiance of international law, and even the United Nations, by enforcing a no-fly zone in northern Iraq? Who brought the so- called "Hammer Force" to Turkey and established through "Operation Provide Comfort" the so-called "safe haven" in northern Iraq, giving agents Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani and their gangs a free hand to summarily kill Iraqi Kurds and plunder their property and money in broad daylight?

The paper adds: This is U.S. deception. The U.S. statement to this effect reflects convoluted anti-Iraq U.S. positions. The Americans view Iraq's commitment to implementing the relevant UN Security Council resolutions as a violation of international law.

The paper concludes by saying: Regardless of the delusions the U.S. tyrant is harboring thanks to its pursuit of the law of the jungle, lofty Iraq is capable of defending its rights strongly and competently.

AL-THAWRAH Assails 'Invasion,' U.S.

JN0907092095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0635 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has denounced the Turkish forces deliberate and recurring invasion of the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq. In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said: The Turkish pretexts and justifications that the Turkish forces are pursuing the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] fighters cannot convince anybody. The Turkish invasion cannot be reconciled with Turkey's claims every now and then that it is extremely eager to maintain Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The paper added: If such various pretexts permit any state to pursue a presumed threat into the territory of a neighboring state, then we are facing a serious precedent in relations among nations.

The paper wondered what the U.S. attitude and UN reactions would be had an Iraqi force been pursuing terrorists in the territory of a neighboring state such as Turkey for instance. The paper voiced its conviction that Washington's attitude would be different, commensurate with the double-standard policy which the U.S. Administration is applying on similar world issues. The paper said: This U.S. policy has encouraged the Ankara rulers who forgot that Iraq is a neighboring state, that geographic stability is the biggest element of truth in relations between the two neighbors, and that this stability imposes a kind of relationship.

The paper said that Turkey, which speaks of PKK attacks on its forces and the security vacuum in northern Iraq, does not mention its direct responsibility in these matters especially its hosting the U.S. foreign intervention forces in Incirlik base under the pretext of providing "comfort"—forces which brought killing, destruction, and displacement, and violated principles and international rights of our Kurdish people in northern Iraq.

The paper added: The fact that Iraq and Turkey are Muslim neighbors linked by neighborly relations and joint history is supposed to prompt the Turkish rulers to follow a different policy, stressing firm principles in their relationship and compelling Ankara to talk to Baghdad directly concerning any issue of interest to both sides. The paper noted that Ankara's logic, which runs counter to history, the principle of sovereignty, and international law harms not only Iraq but Turkey as well. The paper emphasized that Ankara will be the first to lose as a result of playing the Kurdish card because it contains the largest Kurdish population in the region, something which should compel it to pursue a new policy without threats, the use of force, and the violation of sovereignty.

KDP Accuses PUK of Breaking Cease-Fire

NC0907133995 Paris AFP in English
1326 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, July 9 (AFP) — The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Sunday [9 July] accused its rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) of violating a ceasefire accord in northern Iraq.

A KDP statement received in Cyprus said 2,000 PUK fighters attacked its positions near Shaqlawah at dawn, in the center of Iraqi Kurdistan, but were pushed back "after sustaining considerable losses in men and equipment".

"By this unprovoked act, the PUK has seriously violated the ceasefire" agreed in April and due to expire on July 15, the statement added.

Iranian sources said the two sides had agreed in indirect talks in Tehran to extend the truce for another month.

About 2,200 people have been killed in feuding which erupted in May 1994 over power sharing and taxes, according to Kurdish sources.

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The PUK and the KDP took control of northern Iraq in April 1991, following Iraq's defeat in the Gulf War.

KDP Radio Denounces PUK for 8-9 Jul Attacks

JN1007090995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[All Kurdish placenames as heard]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear citizens, Kurdish political parties and forces, Iraqi parties, and good forces in the region and the world. The leadership of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has practically put an end to the truce and extinguished the ray of hope to reach a political and peaceful solution to the crisis.

Last night — the night of 8-9 July — the PUK's main forces, led by Jabbar Qaraman and other commanders, launched an all-out attack on the axes of Ziyarat, Shaqlawah, Spilik, and Halabjah. As a result of this attack, the PUK leadership, headed by Jalal Talabani, bears a historical responsibility for putting an end to the truce and to the people's hope for reaching a just political solution.

O honorable citizens, everyone knows that the leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP], headed by Mas'ud Barzani, has announced a truce that continued for over three months, during which fighting was stopped. Internal and external parties exerted big efforts to turn the truce into a just and firm peace. The Kurdish and Iraqi parties, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey, and other friendly governments, headed by the United States and the governments in Western Europe, continued their thankful and good efforts. These efforts were aimed at making the truce an opportunity to reach a political and peaceful solution, especially a solution to the problem of Irbil, the capital, which is a key to solving the crisis. However the PUK leadership did not take a single step forward to achieve a peaceful solution. Indeed, it remained arrogant and intransigent, whether in terms of solving the problem of Irbil or solving the issue in general. It continued to violate the truce and thus, adopted a clearly negative position toward these good efforts exerted by inside and outside mediators.

During the past few days, many plans were proposed in order to stop fighting and establish peace. Among these was a plan by Kurdish parties, a plan by Iraqi parties and the INC [Iraqi National Congress], our party's plan, as well as the PUK's plan itself. This is in addition to the intervention of friendly governments and the two visits by a senior U.S. delegation last January and June.

During the past three months, people developed hopes about the possibility of reaching some sort of a political solution. Likewise, the Kurdish and Iraqi parties, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and other friendly quarters requested the two sides to extend the truce, which was supposed to end on 15 July, that is, after a few days.

However, after continuous violations, on the night of 8-9 July, the PUK's leadership perpetrated a big stupid act by launching an all-out aggression it had been preparing for weeks. Hence, it put an end to the truce and to the possibilities of achieving peace. The PUK's current military attacks are considered one of its big attacks during the current crisis. It is the crisis in which they were defeated by the braveness and steadfastness of the KDP peshmergas.

It is noteworthy that during the past fews days, Jalal Talabani personally led a large-scale propaganda campaign of official statements and field trips in which he was instigating fighting against the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] and forcing it to accept his conditions by the force of the weapon.

Today, the PUK leadership is openly and frankly standing against the willpower of the Kurdish people and democratic forces and parties and against the good and noble efforts by friendly quarters and governments. The PUK alone will shoulder the results of this serious position to which it has led Kurdistan.

PUK Radio Accuses KDP of Attacks

NC0907163295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The autocratic leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] has reorganized its forces, equipped them with weapons and military supplies, and mobilized them on all fronts, exploiting the calm prevailing in Iraqi Kurdistan under the current truce between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the KDP. In the past two weeks KDP gunmen have violated the truce scores of times, launching attacks in (Kurah Qasim) Mountain, (Buyukah) village, and other areas.

After all these violations and breaches of the truce and to indicate their rejection of the peaceful proposals of the seven Kurdish parties and the peaceful attempts of other parties, KDP forces last night attacked the positions of the PUK peshmergas in Balisan and several other areas, stabbing the PUK in the back with the dagger of treason and treachery and igniting the fire of internecine war once again. But the heroic PUK forces were prepared and confronted the criminal and treacherous attacks, foiling the plans of the autocratic KDP leadership and inflicting heavy losses on the hostile forces.

In announcing this to the masses of Kurdistan, all Kurdistan parties, and the Iraqi opposition, we reaffirm that

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the autocratic KDP leadership is insistently rejecting the language of dialogue and understanding and refusing to sit at the negotiating table to find the solutions to the internal problems. [passage indistinct]

PKK Leader: 'We Want Spain To Listen to Us'

BR0307141995 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 3 Jul 95 p 6

[Interview with Abdula Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party by Georgina Higueras in the Bekaa Valley; date not given: "We Are Not Terrorists, This Is a War" — first paragraph is EL PAIS introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The unarmed guards stood like stone and a sharp silence fell over the room, which filled with the presence of Apo (uncle) [Ocalan] before he appeared smiling at the door. The interview was held the day after a car dropped me off (after driving for almost two hours in the Lebanese night) at a half-built house at some unknown spot in the Bekaa Valley, where the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) held its first military training camps during the civil war in Lebanon. Today, the Lebanese Government has declared Abdula Ocalan to be "persona non grata," forcing him (along with Syria, his true refuge) to "be without being."

At 45 years of age, he bears on his shoulders a war against Turkey that has already cost 16,000 lives and a divorce from a woman "as cold as a snake" but who taught him that "a revolution does not make sense if it does not liberate women," and a clash with his father which led him to conclude that Kurdish families are "deeply feudal" and that one must revolt against these oppressive bonds in order to be free and to "discover what a union between people and the value of people means."

[Higueras] What is the PKK demanding?

[Ocalan] The search for and recognition of the Kurdish nation and our identity as a people. When the PKK rose up in arms in 1984 there was no other way out. It was the last chance for the Kurdish people, who had been subjected to systematic extermination since Mustafa Kemal founded the Republic of Turkey where we are supposedly all equal, in other words we are all Turkish, and anything Kurdish, from schools to music and even the language, is still banned.

[Higueras] Is the struggle still the only alternative you have for achieving your goals?

[Ocalan] The only right which the Turkish Government has granted to the Kurdish people is the right to genocide. The PKK emerged because the Kurdish people were running the risk of extinction, but we do indeed share a very long border and the two peoples could live in peace.

[Higueras] Are you prepared to negotiate?

[Ocalan] Before talking about negotiation it should be remembered that not a single Turk has lived where we live for more than a thousand years. Having said that I feel that it is necessary to find a political solution for Kurdistan.

[Higueras] Does it have to be an independent Kurdistan?

[Ocalan] Not necessarily. It could be a federation, an autonomous area like those in Spain, or a confederation. Anything is possible provided that the Kurdish people are taken into account.

[Higueras] Do you have any dialogue with the Ankara regime?

[Ocalan] I sent a letter to the Turkish Government and to the governments of the European Union asking them to intercede, but I have had no reply. The problem lies in the fact that Turkey is committed to calling us terrorists, when the only terrorist is actually the Turkish Government, which kills our people with impunity. This is not terrorism but war. We want freedom, an identity, and a nation, and we cannot yield on that.

[Higueras] Last year, however, the PKK claimed responsibility for the bomb attack in Istanbul, in which one Spaniard and one Tunisian were killed, as well as other smaller attacks.

[Ocalan] The only party responsible is the Turkish Government, which then tried to label us as terrorists. Just like Turkey's big ally, the United States, says that I am the number one terrorist in the world, yet I could not even kill a fly.

[Higueras] What about the simultaneous occupation of consulates and embassies in a number of European countries, along with violent actions and home-made bombs?

[Ocalan] All that is a distant from terrorism. I am against terrorism. I only want to return the dignity of my people. Europe is making a very serious mistake if it agrees with labelling the PKK as terrorists. It would be a monumental error if the US point of view that there can be a solution without the PKK were to become more widespread, because there is no solution to the Kurdish issue without the PKK. The Kurdish revolt is the PKK.

[Higueras] Would you negotiate unconditionally?

[Ocalan] Yes. They only have to come here and we would set about negotiating. We are calling on the countries of Europe to get to know the reality of our

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people, who have been condemned to death, to stop Turkey from crushing the Kurds.

[Higueras] Are you prepared to go if a government invites you?

[Ocalan] Right away. We want them to listen to us. They have already listened to [Turkish Prime Minister] Tansu Ciller, and now it is our turn. We want Spain, as the new president of the EU, to listen to us. I am prepared to talk with any official in any party, and I say to all of them: "Let Europe give me a blank sheet and I will sign." It is not a question of me selling out, it is just that I want a solution for my people.

[Higueras] You enjoy the support of Iran and Syria. Have you called on them?

[Ocalan] Those two countries have many problems and our rapprochement is merely tactical. We do not do anything against them and they do not do anything against us, but they do not do anything for us either.

[Higueras] What about the Arab community?

[Ocalan] It has been 16 years since I came to Lebanon as a refugee. The Arabs are understanding about our cause, but that is all.

[Higueras] What about the Islamic Conference?

[Ocalan] Perhaps the Christians — since the pope says that he is praying for us — are more likely to give us a break than the Islamic Conference.

[Higueras] The Kurds are Muslims. Is there not a rise in fundamentalism, like in the rest of the world?

[Ocalan] Turkey uses the fundamentalists against us, but for Kurdistan the PKK is its own form of Islamism. The fundamentalists have nothing to do with it, at least for the moment, although we have to be vigilant.

[Higueras] Now that the Left does not exist will the PKK's Marxist-Leninist ideology endure?

[Ocalan] Our ideology should not be pigeon-holed. When the PKK was founded I was not a true Marxist. I was not what the Communists wanted me to be, nor did Islamism interest me too much (in any case, I feel that it should be reformed). The Kurdish cause was the thing I was most interested in, but Masud Barzani and Jalal Talabani (Iraqi Kurdish leaders — EL PAIS editor's note), like today, were always fighting among themselves. That was when I figured out that the only thing that moved me was the search for a Kurdish identity. That is the PKK's ideology, not Islamism and not Communism.

[Higueras] How do you maintain relations with your people?

[Ocalan] It is a relationship that goes beyond politics; it is almost religious. It is almost as if I were their savior.

[Higueras] Have you returned in secret on occasion?

[Ocalan] No. I have already said that the people do not need direct contact with me. That would be a mistake.

[Higueras] What do you think of the offer Turkey made to Barzani and Talabani following the offensive in March in northern Iraq to have their men — equipped and paid by Ankara — patrol the border and prevent the movement of the PKK guerilla forces?

[Ocalan] This move is aimed at crushing the PKK and leaving Barzani and Talabani as the only Kurdish leaders, but they will not succeed. To ensure the freedom of Kurdistan as a whole you have to begin with northern (i.e., Turkish) Kurdistan. During the Gulf War, the United States did the same stupid thing of using Barzani and Talabani against Sadam Husayn. It achieved nothing.

[Higueras] How is the PKK funded?

[Ocalan] With the money given to us by the people, from the inhabitants of Kurdistan to the refugees in Europe and Canada, including those who live in Istanbul, Ankara, and other Turkish cities. This is more than enough for us.

[Higueras] Turkey says that you grow opium and make heroin in the Bekaa Valley.

[Ocalan] It is the counter-guerilla forces (the Turkish police and secret agents — EL PAIS editor's note) who are mixed up in the heavy amount of drug-trafficking in the area. Our party strictly prohibits not only the sale but also the consumption of drugs. Anyone who does either is expelled.

[Higueras] Is it hard for you to recruit guerrilla fighters?

[Ocalan] I have 15,000 guerrilla fighters and just as many militiamen. I started alone, but now the young people come to me by the hundred from the four corners of the earth. For this reason I am convinced that we will win, both militarily and politically.

[Higueras] And suppose everything stays the same and the Turkish Government does not listen to you?

[Ocalan] Tansu Ciller's favorite phrase is: "We are going to stamp the Kurds out, or else we will stamp them out." This is what we will prevent and then, if they do not want to negotiate, any kind of fighting will be valid.

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MENA: Regime Could Go 'at Any Moment'

NC0907142795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 9 Jul (MENA)—Reports from Baghdad indicate that conditions in Iraq are deteriorating so fast that a security crisis can be expected at any moment because discontent has spread among the citizens due to the harsh living conditions brought about by the government's policies and the continuation of the international blockade against Iraq.

These reports say that the recent military and civilian rebellion in al-Ramadi, 30 km from Baghdad, showed that the Iraqi regime could go at any moment even though it controlled the recent events through the new military organization set up recently. Called "Saddam's Fedayeen," the organization is intended to put down any rebellion or popular uprising in Iraq.

Reports from Baghdad say that after this rebellion Iraqi President Saddam Husayn lost the support of the al-Ramadi clans. He had promised the al-Dulaymi clan that he would only imprison Major General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, leader of a failed coup in January, but instead he executed him. The al-Dulaymi clan and other clans in al-Ramadi area rose in rebellion, which was then violently put down. Following this rebellion, Major Ahmad al-Dulayni, brother of Major General Mazlum al-Dulaymi, fled abroad. President Saddam Husayn gave big financial awards to the members of Saddam's Fedayeen.

Reports from Baghdad indicate that the al-Ramadi events have led to complete mistrust between the Republican Guard, which in the past was the main force on which the Iraqi president depended and which was completely loyal to him, and the Saddam's Fedayeen units that have taken the place of the Republican Guard .

Meanwhile, utilities and services in Iraq have completely broken down, with electricity and water supplies interrupted for several hours each day in Baghdad. The government has been obliged to bring electricity generating units from elsewhere in the country to boost electricity supplies in Baghdad. But these units have failed to do their job because the electricity network is a shambles due to a shortage of spare parts.

Reports add that the deteriorating living conditions in Iraq might lead to military rebellions or popular uprisings at any time in various parts of the country, thus threatening President Saddam Husayn's regime.

Saddam Addresses Ba'th Party Congress

JN0907143795 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 9, INA—The Arab Ba'th Socialist Party's Iraq Command held a conference on July 8 and 9.

The conference was opened by President Saddam Husayn who is secretary general of the command.

The secretary general gave a three-hour speech in which he tackled all issues of concern to the party, people of Iraq and the Arab nation.

In his speech, the secretary general stressed the fundamental principles and aims of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party which has worked hard to accomplish these aims since its establishment.

The speech also tackled the harsh conditions of the people of Iraq as a result of the unjust embargo which the forces of evil and hatred insist on maintaining.

President Husayn defined the tasks the party should shoulder to face up to the difficult circumstances and to provide all the material and moral requirements that would ensure steadfastness and victory.

The secretary general tackled the Iraq Command's approach in dealing with the Arab and international situation at the current phase.

Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim was elected chairman of the conference, Mr 'Ali Hasan al-Majid deputy chairman and Mr Kamil Yasin Rashid and Mr Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq members of the conference secretariat.

SAIRI Leader Denies Opposition To Move to Syria

JN0907190495 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], met with a British BBC television correspondent last Saturday [1 July]. His eminence replied to his many questions on the Islamic movement in Iraq and the nature of the Iranian-Iraqi relations in light of what was recently reported about these relations in the media. He also spoke about the general situation in Iraq.

Asked about the possible impact of the recent contacts between Iran and Iraq on the future of the Iraqi mujahidin, his eminence said that they will absolutely not affect the situation of the Iraqi mujahidin.

On the visit his eminence intends to pay to Syria soon and on reports on the possibility of making

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arrangements with the Syrian Government to transfer the Islamic opposition to Syria, his eminence said that the primary objective of his visit is to meet with the brother Iraqis in fraternal Syria, and to also meet with the Muslim visitors who come to that country every summer. He said: There is no such thing as you have mentioned in the program of our visit.

On whether he considers the United States to be a friend of the Iraqi people, his eminence said that the United States did not prove this in practice.

His eminence also spoke of the al-Ramadi events, and of the disappointment of the despot and his regime because they failed to sow discord among the Iraqi people with all its communities, and nationalities. He said that the uprising of the al-Anbar citizens came as a lethal shock to the Saddamist regime. His eminence pointed to the escalation of jihad operations in Iraq and their intensification in the south and central Iraq and how this heralds the imminent collapse of the regime.

Party Elects New Command, Saddam Secretary

JN0907153595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1350 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—The 11th congress of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party held its ordinary session on Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 Safar 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 8 and 9 July 1995.

President Saddam Husayn, the secretary of the Iraq Command, opened the congress in the name of God and with His blessings. The president leader called on congress members to stand up to read the opening chapter of the Koran in commemoration of the martyrs of Iraq and the Arab nation, the most blessed of us all.

Following this, President Saddam Husayn delivered a comprehensive speech which lasted approximately three hours.

In his historic speech, the president dealt with all the issues of interest to the party and people in Iraq and the Arab homeland, particularly the current circumstances.

His excellency reemphasized the basic principles and objectives for which the Ba'th Party was established and whose attainment it sought to realize during its protracted militant march and by which it continues to abide with deep faith and firmness despite the difficult circumstances Iraq is experiencing under the canopy of the ongoing aggression, the unjust embargo, and the deteriorating situation in the Arab homeland.

The president also spoke of the harsh circumstances the Iraqi people are experiencing as a result of the unjust embargo the forces of evil and hatred insist on maintaining and the social and economic manifestations and results produced by these circumstances.

President Saddam Husayn set the many tasks the party should carry out to tackle these circumstances and to secure moral and logistical requirements as well as the available material requirements that realize the components of steadfastness and crossing. His excellency stressed in this respect the principled traits the brother comrades who have a leadership role and all the party's strugglers on all echelons of power should have, not to mention the ability and efficiency to perform duties and carry out achievements.

In his speech, the president spoke about the Command's policy toward Arab and international situations at the current stage.

Concluding his historic speech, his excellency said:

Comrades, any human being who has great values and objectives seeks to reach the peak pursuant to these values and objectives. However, we only reach the peak when we work to please the people and the nation, when we have a clear conscience, and when we are convinced of our leading role and responsibility toward taking care of the people's interests. Above all, when we have great faith in the merciful God's power.

Only then can a great man reach the peak because he basically has it within himself, and in his mind, conscience, feelings, and action. By this, he will be satisfied and will achieve loftiness in the name of God, as well as some of the meanings of eternity. Because I wish you this position, and in fact, I only view your struggle based on this image, I wish you same as I wish myself, to win this status, whether in the eyes of the people and the nation now, or when the stage of our struggle will be an honorable part of the history of our nation and people.

Comrades, faith is a basic condition to achieve victory. However, a shaky faith in the possibility of achieving victory will only lead to inevitable defeat no matter how strong or effective the other factors maybe. Based on this, let us rely on the ranks of the faithful ones after we rely on Almighty God. Clear victory will then be inevitable.

The conferees received the president's speech with warm applause, which reflected the congress' support for what the president has stressed in terms of principles, tasks, programs, and policies toward the issues of the current stage and its challenges both on the level of Iraq and the homeland.

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Later, President Saddam Husayn informed members of the congress that the Party Command, which follows up the circumstances and developments in the relationship with the UN Security Council and the UN Special Commission, has, since October 1994, conducted a comprehensive analysis of the situation and approved a clear policy toward this situation.

A document in this regard was read; namely, the message his excellency addressed to the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command on 20 Jumada al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 25 October 1994, which was approved by the Command at the time, and called the "Crossing Document."

The congress voiced absolute support for the course set by the president's message and stressed determination to shoulder the burdens of the challenges and responsibilities specified by the plan approved by the Command.

The congress then discussed the president's speech and the Crossing Document. Afterward, according to the bylaws and the regulations of the congress sessions, 'Izzat Ibrahim was elected chairman of the congress. The congress bureau comprised 'Ali Hasan al-Majid as deputy chairman of the congress, and Kamil Yasin Rashid and Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq as members of the congress secretariat.

In a speech, 'Izzat Ibrahim discussed the militant nature of the current phase experienced by Iraq and the Arab nation and the special traits necessary for whoever shoulders responsibility in this phase.

According to the party's bylaws, the command's term expires as soon as the congress starts, something which requires the election of a new leadership of the Iraq Command, starting with the direct election of the secretary by the congress. Congress Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim talked about reelecting President Saddam Husayn as the secretary. He said that President Saddam Husayn has played a historic role in the leadership of the party under all circumstances of struggle and led the people and the nation in the historic battles against the enemies of the nation, especially the glorious al-Qadisiayh battle and the immortal Mother of Battles. He said that given all that, in view of the principled traits of faith possessed by the leader, and based on our genuine Ba'thist principles and on our commitment to values and morals, something which had characterized the early Muslim mujahidin, we should seriously consider giving up the method we followed in previous congresses, according to which we renewed the election of President Saddam Husayn as secretary at each congress. Rather, Ibrahim proposed, we should take the natural decision expressing the sentiments of the party and the people; we should elect President Saddam Husayn as secretary for life.

The suggestion of the chairman of the congress was received by a warm applause by the members of the congress.

Having requested to speak, President Saddam Husayn said that he understands the principled and moral considerations for the congress chairman's suggestion. He also thanked the congress members for their response to 'Izzat Ibrahim's suggestion. Addressing the congress, President Saddam Husayn said: You know me well. According to my responsibilities, when I see that there is as an interest for the party and the people in anything, even though it might involve me personally, then I call for it and demand it. But concerning the congress chairman's suggestion, I apologize that I cannot accept it. I ask the congress to deal with the question of the secretary election according to the provisions of the party's bylaws.

In accordance with the party's bylaws, the congress chairman made a proposal to reelect President Saddam Husayn as the Iraq Command secretary. The congress unanimously approved the proposal to reelect his excellency to his natural and historic position as the leader of the party, the revolution, and the nation.

Elections were then held to elect the Iraq Command members in accordance with the bylaws and on the basis of secret ballot.

Twenty-one of the 246 members attending the congress were nominated to join the command. It was decided to set the number of Command members during this term at 16 in addition to the president.

The following were elected as Command members in a single round of elections:

1. 'Izzat Ibrahim
2. Taha Yasin Ramadan
3. Tariq 'Aziz
4. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid
5. Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi
6. Sa'di Mahdi Salih
7. Mizban Khadr Hadi
8. Kamil Yasin Rashid
9. 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur
10. Muhammad Zimam 'Abd-al-Razzaq
11. Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad
12. Radi Hasan Salman
13. 'Aziz Salih al-Numan
14. Samir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Najm
15. Fadil Ibrahim al-Mashhadani
16. 'Abd-al-Baqi 'Abd-al-Karim al-Sa'dun

The following were elected alternate members:

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1. Mizhir Matni al-'Awwad
2. Qa'id Hasan al-'Awwadi
3. Khalil Ibrahim Jasim

With this, the 11th congress of the Iraq Command — the Congress of Crossing — concluded its proceedings.

Following the conclusion of the congress, Secretary President Saddam Husayn chaired the first meeting of the new command. His excellency congratulated the members who were elected to the Command, particularly those who enter the command for the first time, and wished everyone success in fulfilling their tasks at this phase. He underlined the characteristics which the Command members must display in accordance with what was mentioned in the opening speech and during the proceedings of the congress.

During this meeting, the secretary and Command members selected 'Izzat Ibrahim as the Iraq Command deputy secretary.

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Rabin on Talks With Syria, Agreement With PA

TA0707152395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Jul 95 p 5

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Amir Neumann and Moti Bassok in Rabin's Tel Aviv office on 4 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] [DAVAR] Did the Syrians receive a message from Israel about the final peace border?

[Rabin] We did not give the Syrians any commitment about any specific borderline. I reiterate: There is no commitment, but we know their position.

Where peace with Syria is concerned, we are primarily talking about a peace that has four components. Labor never talked about remaining on the current borders but about territorial compromise on all three fronts. The principle of withdrawal and territorial compromise as part of the price of peace with Syria is mentioned in our party platform for the 1992 elections. Hence, we favor a withdrawal, and the only problem is its extent.

The second component is the time that will elapse until we reach the peace border which remains to be agreed. The third issue is the establishment of full normalization after a very limited withdrawal. That is what happened in the agreement with Egypt, in which we withdrew from half of the Sinai Peninsula over a period of nine months and in which a large area of territory was at stake. Once we were deployed on the Ras Muhammad-al-'Arish line, full normalization between Israel and Egypt was implemented over a period of 26 months, until the second stage of the Israeli withdrawal to the line agreed upon by the Egyptian and Israeli Governments was completed.

On the Golan Heights, we want a very limited withdrawal, because the area is very small, and full normalization — that is to say, open borders and embassies over a period of approximately three years. Only then will we complete the withdrawal to the line which, I repeat, has not yet been agreed upon.

The fourth component is the security arrangements which, first and foremost, are meant to prevent a sudden attack by either side. It is only natural that not only we but also the Syrians should demand this. We are talking about arrangements which take into account the geographical and topographical reality between us and Syria.

In none of these four components — where the peace border will pass, the duration of the withdrawal, the establishment of full normalization before the completion of the withdrawal, and the security arrangements — is there Israeli-Syrian agreement, and the gaps persist.

[DAVAR] In the talks on the security arrangements, did you demand that the Syrians restrain Hizballah?

[Rabin] I did not discuss this issue with the Syrians but with the Americans, and I can only say what their impressions were or what they told me. We believe peace with Lebanon can be attained in the course of implementing the peace moves with Syria, based on the avowed positions I detailed on more than one occasion: the deployment of the Lebanese Army north of the security zone for six months, during which time it would have to prove that it can prevent terrorist attacks in the security zone and disarm Hizballah.

If the results meet our expectations, a peace treaty between Lebanon and Israel, including full normalization, could be finalized within three months. We would withdraw to the international border on two conditions: that appropriate security arrangements are set, and, of course, that the fate of the SLA [South Lebanese Army] and the Lebanese population in the security zone is safeguarded. The SLA, like other Lebanese militias, would merge within the Lebanese Army, and all the rights of the residents of south Lebanon would be secured. We will not let any harm befall them.

[DAVAR] Was this issue discussed in the chiefs of staff talks?

[Rabin] No, because the Syrians are not prepared to discuss the question of Lebanon at this stage, either through the Americans or in the talks between the army chiefs. They say that the problem of Lebanon will be solved when we attain a peace agreement.

[DAVAR] Do you foresee a breakthrough in the talks in the wake of Syrian Chief of Staff Hikmat al-Shihabi's agreement to demilitarization based on a 10:6 ratio?

[Rabin] I do not want to go into details, and I will not say what he did or did not agree to. I think we are in the midst of negotiations and, being the prime minister and defense minister, it would be unwise on my part to discuss the ins and outs of the negotiations here. We believe Dennis Ross will come here next week to prepare the next officers meeting — their level is not yet known; no decision was made to hold it once again on the level of chiefs of staff — to continue the deliberations.

[DAVAR] What is the rationale for discussing security arrangements with the Syrians at this point in time?

[Rabin] In my opinion, security arrangements are the key component. At least, that is how I feel with regard to

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their impact on all the other components. Furthermore, this is a typical military issue, while all the other issues — where the border will be, the duration of the withdrawal, the combination of a limited withdrawal and the establishment of normalization — are political issues which should not be dealt with by military men.

[DAVAR] But the security arrangements depend....

[Rabin] They do not depend on anything.

[DAVAR] Do they stand on their own?

[Rabin] They stand on their own. Many of them — whether to have early warning stations, what kind of early warning, where, what kind of demilitarization and thinning out of troops — carry their own impact. I occasionally hear criticism in Israel, particularly from opposition quarters. Actually, I should not say the opposition but rather the Likud, which is demanding that we get from the Syrians what they failed to get from the Egyptians. After all, they failed to prevent a withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. It was the Egyptians who gave up Gaza because they did not want it. Did they manage to prevent the uprooting of the entire Israeli presence from the area we evacuated? The Egyptians did not agree to that, and there is no mention in the peace treaty of cutting down the size of their army. On the contrary, it has grown and been built up in the qualitative sense. Nevertheless, they are demanding that we get from Syria everything they failed to get in the negotiations with Egypt. If they are so clever, why did they fail to get as much from the Egyptians?

[DAVAR] Are we insisting on the 4 June border or on the international border?

[Rabin] I will not elaborate here on what the peace border will be. You are not the Syrians, and it is not with you that I am negotiating. I can say only one thing clearly: There is no Israeli commitment to the Syrians on where the border will be.

[DAVAR] Not even an indirect commitment, via the Americans?

[Rabin] I will not comment on any issue that is part of the negotiations with Syria.

[DAVAR] Are all the understandings reached by Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat with regard to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment and use of the roads acceptable to you?

[Rabin] This is the agreement I envisioned. All the understandings reached by Peres and 'Arafat were coordinated by me and the foreign minister. The latest coordination meeting took place as Peres was making his way to meet with 'Arafat (last Tuesday), and it was just one in a series. The foreign minister and I are coordinated on all issues.

[DAVAR] Are you not afraid that the Palestinian Authority [PA] might "play a trick" on you and that terrorist attacks could resume under conditions less comfortable to the IDF once the redeployment is completed?

[Rabin] As far as terrorist attacks by Palestinians on Israelis are concerned, 'Arafat's PLO stopped carrying out attacks, certainly lethal ones, at the end of 1993. The lethal terrorist attacks on Israel have been perpetrated by the radical Islamic and Khomeynistic organizations Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, as well as by some rejectionist groups. This does not mean that there have been no incidents between their policemen and our soldiers, but those stemmed from misunderstandings rather than from orders or guidelines from any senior level of the PA officialdom.

Radical elements persist in their efforts to carry out terrorist attacks. We know for a fact that they still want to do that; they wanted it before 1 July and they still want it today. I think our actions, as well as those of the PA in the last two or three months, have thwarted terrorist attacks. We expect more of them, but it is clear to us that the PA is making an effort — I am talking only about the Gaza and Jericho areas.

We also know about negotiations between the PA and the two radical Islamic organizations aimed at bringing an end to terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip and Jericho or from the Gaza Strip into Israel and in Judaea and Samaria. I do not know about an agreement, and in my opinion such an agreement does not exist. Some of the radical Islamic groups had been willing to agree to some sort of cease-fire, perhaps not an indefinite one, but their leaders outside the territories did not allow them to make such an agreement.

Obviously, the Islamic organizations will want to carry out attacks if we fail to reach an agreement in the next two to three weeks. We are still checking out the basic premises so that we can then sit and formulate the agreement on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] in Judaea and Samaria. We have not yet reached an agreement.

[DAVAR] Do you see the possibility of radical settlers trying to sabotage the process through extreme actions? There are precedents: the Jewish underground and Goldstein.

[Rabin] At this point, I have no evidence that an underground exists, and that is why I will not discuss it. In my opinion, the assassin Goldstein was an exception. I see vicious incitement by extreme rightist elements. I hear bizarre calls by a small group of rabbis in the

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United States — perhaps they had better be called ayatollahs than rabbis; I am talking about a small group of rabbis and not about their entire community in the United States. I see demonstrations by right-wing elements against army officers, which I consider very serious and a sort of deligitimization of the army. This is something nobody tried to do before, not even those who refused to serve in the territories or those politicians who did not denounce the refusal to serve in the territories or in Lebanon. This phenomenon entails dangers which I hope we will manage to overcome. I foresee difficulties but very much hope we will not witness the phenomena you mentioned.

[DAVAR] What do you say to those who describe the government as "peace criminals" and to the calls to try its members one day?

[Rabin] I think those are serious pronouncements which have no place in a democracy. In my opinion, the purpose of those who say such things is to undermine the foundations of Israeli democracy. People who want democracy to prevail should condemn those who make such pronouncements.

[DAVAR] What will happen in Hebron now?

[Rabin] We are now discussing the interim arrangement, which entails a phased redeployment. In the first stage, the intention is to redeploy the IDF and to pull it out of the big cities. Ramallah and Bethlehem call for a gradual redeployment, while Hebron is a different problem altogether. The test will be to enable the Palestinians to hold elections. It is inconceivable that the presence of 415 Jews should prevent the 100,000 residents of Hebron from participating in the elections.

[DAVAR] You frequently mention the security danger posed by the settlements yet do nothing to remove them.

[Rabin] I made a commitment not to uproot settlements, and I do not intend to change my commitment.

[DAVAR] Does your vision of the Middle East include an independent Palestinian state in another 10 years?

[Rabin] I look at the Middle East from a totally different angle. Stability, security, and peace in the Middle East is being threatened by a radical Islamic movement which I call Khomeynism without Khomeyni. It is the basis of international terror and a is widespread phenomenon: Hamas and Islamic Jihad among the Palestinians; Hizballah in Lebanon; the opposition in Jordan, which has not yet turned to terrorism; and what is happening in Egypt and Algeria. They have taken over Sudan, which backs Hamas and the terror against Egypt. We know of Hamas members going to Sudan en route to Tehran and then back to Gaza. Hamas is backed by Iran, which is trying to establish itself in the intermediate and long run as a nonconventional military superpower. I am talking about nuclear weapons, since I assume it already has chemical weapons, and it is not the only Muslim or Arab country in possession of such weapons. That is where I see the main danger.

As for your question, Labor's party platform, with which we ran in the elections, stated that we recognize the historical right of the Israeli people over all of Eretz Yisra'el, but we did not say that Greater Israel was a political objective. We do not want a binational state at present or in the foreseeable future. The annexation of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza would bring 2.2 million Palestinians under Israel's rule and make them part of Israel.

I believe that Judaism and racism are mutually exclusive and that population transfers and apartheid run counter to Jewish values. Therefore, if granted full civilian and political rights, the Arabs would become one-third of the electorate. When the proposed Golan law is presented to the Knesset, the opposition will probably demand a privileged majority, which would prevent at least one-third of the voters from taking part in the referendum. If the opposition is sure that the people are against any withdrawal from the Golan Heights, why are they afraid of a referendum with a regular majority? I suppose I know what their thoughts are. They are quite racist and stem from fears about the vote of Israeli Arabs. If that is what they think today, what would happen if the Arab population doubled or trebled? What sort of democracy would we have here? That is, unless they decide to have an apartheid regime, which South Africa does not have any more.

That is why my aim is to implement the DOP. This should lead to a Jewish Israeli state, but not in all of Eretz Yisra'el. There is no way we are going to return to the 1967 borders as far as two key, albeit not exclusive, components are concerned: keeping Jerusalem united under Israel's sovereignty as the capital of Israel and the heart of the Jewish people, and the security border in the Jordan Valley and the eastern slopes of the Judaea and Samaria mountains. Some changes will have to be made, but these will be necessary from a security point of view and will not add a large number of Arabs to sovereign Israel.

In my opinion, the Palestinian entity that will coexist alongside us in peace should be less than a state. That is why a way must be found to create some kind of joint framework between Jordan, the Palestinian entity, and Israel — a framework of collaboration and cooperation in economic and other areas.

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[DAVAR] As chairman of the Labor Party, do you foresee Hayim Ramon running on an independent list in 1996?

[Rabin] Only Hayim Ramon can answer this question. I hope that will not be the case and that together we will find a way for him to return to Labor.

[DAVAR] You say that, even though polls show that any bloc headed by you would profit from such a move.

[Rabin] I appreciate polls, but they are good for only one day; they merely indicate trends. I have seen election campaigns where parties — from Moshe Dayan's Telem to 'Ezer Weizman's Yahad — were given 12 Knesset seats but ultimately received two or three. Take polls from past years and look at the results.

[DAVAR] In your opinion, how could David Levi's quitting the Likud affect the election campaign?

[Rabin] I will not comment on this issue. That is the business of former Minister David Levi and the Likud.

[DAVAR] Would you consider him a possible partner in a Labor-led government, if one is established after the next elections?

[Rabin] I will not discuss possible government partners after the 1996 elections. Theoretically, anybody who is prepared to more or less follow the policy the government is conducting today could be a partner. I am not saying this about any person in particular, but this is my position in principle.

[DAVAR] It appears that quite a few candidates will vie for the premiership in direct elections. This would seem to lead to the conclusion that there will apparently be two rounds of elections. Are you getting ready for that?

[Rabin] Leaving aside my personal issue, if several candidates run for the premiership, a second round appears most likely, as is the case in any personal elections. In municipal elections or in the Labor primaries, a candidate who scores over 40 percent is elected. In contrast, the law for the direct election of the prime minister sets a threshold of over 50 percent in order to get elected. This threshold almost predetermines a second round. I suppose that if the law had existed in 1992, one round may have been enough, but those were special circumstances. I do not want to prophesy about the future. Based on logic rather than a factual analysis, I believe a second round should be expected. That is what happened in the elections in France.

[DAVAR] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Labor Secretary Nisim Zvili propose to change the election system to a regional- proportional system by the end of this government's tenure. Is that a feasible proposition?

[Rabin] I am not prepared to give you a clear-cut answer. I think it is a bit late, but a Labor team is scheduled to examine this issue. Clearly, if the first reading of a law to this effect is not passed by the time the Knesset goes into recess in early August, I do not see how this can be done.

[DAVAR] It is believed that there is an understanding between yourself and Peres about running together in the elections, you as No. 1 and he as No. 2.

[Rabin] I think many people would like to believe that. I cannot say anything more.

[DAVAR] In the Labor faction meeting last Monday, Peres said this may be his last Knesset term. Did you hear him?

[Rabin] I do not think he was talking about the next Knesset, but I did not ask him about it and I do not think I am in a position to interpret what he says. I hope he did not mean the next Knesset.

[DAVAR] Your friends in the Third Way — 'Amos Horev, Tzvi Zamir, Yitzhaq Hofi, and Hayim Guri — and you have been through a lot together. They claim you are wrong on the Golan issue.

[Rabin] That is their right. We are friends. We have been through a lot together in the army and other areas, and I think they are wrong. We are all entitled to our own views and opinions. That is legitimate in a democratic state.

[DAVAR] Do you maintain a dialogue with them?

[Rabin] I spoke with Horev, Zamir, and Hofi a few months ago. It was a very friendly conversation, despite the differences.

[DAVAR] In hindsight, looking back at the 28 years since the Six-Day War, did postwar leaders Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir make a mistake when they failed to make greater efforts to enter a dialogue with the leaders of the Arab countries to reach peace back then?

[Rabin] I do not think it would be right to criticize the past. Frankly, I do not think any Arab leader made peace or reached agreements with us because one shiny day they suddenly recognized the justness of the Zionist vision and of its fulfillment by the State of Israel. I think they asked themselves two questions: Will I get more from Israel by pursuing the path of war or by treading the path of peace? Will I get what I need for my people in terms of social and economic development for the advancement of my country by pursuing war or by pursuing peace?

Could al-Sadat have regained the Sinai Peninsula by force? I do not think he could have, but he regained

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it through peace. Could al-Sadat and Mubarak advance Egypt through a state of war? I am sure not. In my opinion, this approach is applicable to any Arab partner. We are not talking about ideological recognition but about a pragmatic assessment that they must make peace with Israel if they want to get everything or almost everything they want from it in the territorial aspect and to meet the needs of their people. In my opinion, all of them came to this realization after they failed in the use of force. Only then did they choose the path of peace and enter negotiations with us. This is also the reason why Israel must continue to be militarily strong; it is the guarantee and the basis for all the peace moves.

Rabinovich: Syria Talks 'on Hold' for Military Accords

TA1007104895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, has said that there are too many gray areas in the understandings reached with Syria and Hizballah after Operation Accountability and that Israel would like Damascus to clarify them so as to prevent katyusha attacks on the northern settlements.

Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports that the katyusha attack will be discussed this evening in the meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross. The latter will fly to Damascus tomorrow.

Ambassador Rabinovich added that he has not met with his Syrian counterpart recently and that the negotiations between Israel and Syria have been put on hold until understandings are reached on the military level.

Agreement Emerging With Syria on Aerial Early Warning

TA1007105195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jul 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel and Syria are leaning toward an agreement whereby they would receive data and information about what is happening in each other's territory from intelligence aircraft rather than from early-warning ground stations.

This emerges from a classified report summing up the points of agreement in the talks between Shahaq and al-Shihabi in Washington sent over the weekend to decisionmakers in Jerusalem by Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich writes in his report that "agreement emerged to receive early-warning information by aerial means and to implement confidence-building measures pertaining to the issue." The ambassador stresses that these were the only points agreed upon in the talks held by the two chiefs of staff.

Rabinovich proposes to expand the discussion of these issues in the officers' talks. It should be pointed out that the Syrians are categorically opposed to Israel's demand to retain its early-warning station on Mount Hermon or any Israeli military presence whatsoever on the Golan Heights. Early warning from satellites, intelligence aircraft, and pilotless drones were discussed at length in the talks between Shahaq and al-Shihabi in a bid to solve the disagreements between the sides on this sensitive issue. [passage omitted]

Israeli officials are wondering whether a Syrian representative will attend the signing ceremony of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians scheduled to be held at the White House on 25 July, the same day scheduled for the meeting of the Israeli and Syrian officers. Israeli officials do not know whether the Syrians intend to come to Washington on this date or will seek to put off the opening of the officers' talks to avoid any association between the agreement with the Palestinians and the talks with them.

Minister Links End to 'Terror,' Peace With Syria

TA0407062995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 4 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cabinet Minister Efrayim Sne says Israel should consider making security arrangements on the Golan Heights with Syria contingent upon a Syrian crackdown on terrorism in southern Lebanon. The minister denies that Israel is holding back militarily in Lebanon due to the peace talks with Syria, saying just the night before of these latest incidents, Israeli troops operated beyond the security zone. Minister Sne spoke with reporter David Ze'ev after the two Israeli soldiers were killed.

[Begin recording] [Sne] I think that to put an end to the terrorism in south Lebanon, this is a condition to peace with Syria. The Syrians are trying, in a way, to exert an indirect pressure on us through the terror in Lebanon, in south Lebanon, but one thing should be put very, very clear: This sort of terrorism or guerilla would not bring us to concessions that we don't want to make in the negotiations with Syria on the main issue which is the Golan Heights.

[Ze'ev] But is Israel perhaps holding back in southern Lebanon in attacking the Hizballah because of diplomatic considerations, because of the peace talks with Syria?

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[Sne] Only last night, a unit of Israel Defense Forces has carried out an operation behind the lines in south Lebanon, caused several casualties to the Hizballah. Similar operations were carried out a couple of weeks ago. There is an ongoing fight against them. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 4 July carries a report by army affairs correspondent Avi Lifshitz citing Knesset Member Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and former commander of the Northern Command, who "called for a change to the understandings with Hizballah." Or maintains that "the state of the understandings in the area should be updated, even through a large-scale military operation that would yield a massive reaction by the terrorists."]

Katyushas Fired From Lebanon at Western Galilee

TA0907144195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Report by military correspondent Avi Lifshitz]

[FBIS Translated Text] This is a report that has been just cleared for broadcast: Several katyusha rockets were fired at the Western Galilee this afternoon. It is not yet clear whether there were several volleys or just a single volley of several rockets. The residents of the northern border, in any event, were told to reenter the shelters a short while ago, after spending all last night there and leaving them only this morning.

There was a fear that katyusha rockets might be fired from Lebanon in the wake of Lebanese reports that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] tank fired at al-Nabatiyah last night. According to these reports, one [as heard] girl was killed and several others, including a Lebanese Army soldier, were wounded.

More on Katyushas; Rabin Criticizes IDF

TA0907153195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several katyushas were lobbed at the Galilee Panhandle and Western Galilee a short time ago but did not cause any casualties, and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] returned the fire, our correspondents Moti 'Eden and Ilan Ro'e report. The shells fell in an open field in the Western Galilee, causing a large fire which firefighters are now extinguishing.

This afternoon, the IDF ordered residents of the north to stay in their underground shelters out of concern that the terrorists might fire at Israel after the funerals of the two young girls killed in Lebanon by IDF fire yesterday. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that a Northern Command debriefing into Saturday's shelling showed that it was a mistake. The prime minister criticized the firing at today's cabinet meeting.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 9 July adds that "cabinet ministers have criticized the IDF firing at an al-Nabatiyah neighborhood." IDF Radio's political correspondent Udi Segal reports that "the cabinet devoted only 30 minutes to defense briefings this morning. The chief of staff started with a report on the situation in the north. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin criticized the IDF firing at al-Nabatiyah, as a result of which two girls were killed. The firing was unnecessary, some ministers said."]

Chief of Staff on Situation in North

TA0907191695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Interview with Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq by Hayim Yavin on the occasion of "Soldier's Day" on Jerusalem's Mount Scopus — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] This is a festive day, but in the north things are not so happy. I would first like to ask you about what is happening in the north. The morale of the soldiers there is not the highest, and people are asking how long this will go on. I also ask you: How long will it continue like this?

[Shahaq] We are not alone in the north. Hizballah is on the other side of the border, and we know its aim. It laid out several aims for itself in recent years; it has been operating against us and trying to harm us. There is a war going on in the north. The soldiers are at the forefront of a daily war in the north.

Today's events are part of the policy recently adopted by Hizballah, but our mistake also contributed to today's incidents. Yesterday, we fired at the wrong place in al-Nabatiyah, but that happens in the kind of war we are fighting there. At night, mistakes can be made in identifying terrorists, and that is what happened yesterday. As far as I know, that is what resulted in today's katyusha shelling, but other things also contributed.

I have said, and I repeat: We will choose the time to make sure that the reality in which and the area from which Hizballah operates are such that it will have to think twice about whether it is worth its while to fire katyushas.

[Yavin] Are you sure that escalation contributes to stability? We are witnessing an escalation on both sides.

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[Shahaq] I know of no war that contributes to stability. I know only of wars that are fought and must be won. Hizballah fires from inside civilian areas. The Lebanese Army does not try to prevent it from shelling. There are those who support it. During the week of Washington talks, as far as I know, there were almost no Hizballah actions in south Lebanon. What is involved here is a whole network of self-interests and considerations. In the long run, Hizballah has to be hit, and that is what will be done. [passage omitted]

Likud Calls For Rabin To Resign Over Peace Remarks

TA0807121295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Likud says Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin should either resign or call early elections. The opposition statement came after Rabin's comments to THE NEW YORK TIMES and Israel Television's Channel 2.

In an interview with THE TIMES, the prime minister said that, like all Israelis, he has doubts about the peace process with the Palestinians. He told Channel 2 that the new autonomy agreement will not bring security to the Israelis in the short term, but there is no other alternative.

The Likud Party Bureau will meet tomorrow to discuss the agreement.

Peres on Peace Talks, Middle East Market

NC0907060095 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 5 Jul 95 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Ahmad Nafi' in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Peres] Let me start by saying that the Gaza experiment has succeeded. It has refuted the claim that the Gaza-Jericho First agreement was merely a trick, and this was really the end of the matter. Although 'Arafat has said we made him the mayor of Gaza, the West Bank negotiations are still going on. He is the mayor of Gaza, Nabulus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Qalqiliyah, and Janin. What else do you want? We told them: Where can you find another government that is spending a billion Shekels ($350 million) to redeploy its forces? Why don't you appreciate this?

I told them that they should ignore complaints and ridiculous assessments. What we are doing is extremely difficult. Half of the people oppose our efforts. There are also political dangers. We are spending money and are in fact handing over real authority. Why doesn't the Arab world appreciate what we are doing?

[Nafi'] Is it because of the delay in the negotiations process?

[Peres] The delay was due to terrorist operations. There were four or five terrorist operations and more than 120 soldiers and women were killed. What did you want us to do? The idea that we should do everything while the other side does nothing seems a strange one.

[Nafi'] But the Palestinian Authority [PA] has done a lot to provide the right climate for making progress in the peace talks.

[Peres] We appreciate that. But the Arab boycott continues and Arab terrorism continues. No new relations have been established with the Arab countries that are always attacking us. I do not know the real reason. For the first time, Palestinians are teaching their children. This did not happen before, under the British, Egyptian, Jordanian, or Israeli administrations. For the first time, the Palestinians have become fully responsible for their own establishments and authorities. We decided this without anyone forcing us to do so and without being compelled to do so by defeat or fear. Hence, we believe that Arab public opinion is still being directed by misunderstandings. We do not know the reason for this.

[Nafi'] Does this depend on the progress of the Palestinian track?

[Peres] There is progress. Look at all the changes that have taken place in the past two or three years. This is not a long time.

[Nafi'] It was noted that there is a wide gap between you and the Palestinian side in the negotiations to implement the transitional stage. Is it possible to reach an agreement during July?

[Peres] Yes, I believe so. Notice that we were on the verge of concluding an agreement during the Erez negotiations on 2 July. But the (Palestinian) chairman asked for a 24-hour delay. I believe that a timetable must be drawn up, otherwise everything will just evaporate. Nothing can be achieved without a timetable for your objectives because no one is in a hurry [sentence as published]. The negotiations might go on for many years, as was the case between the United States and Vietnam, which lasted seven or eight years, or in Bosnia.

[Nafi'] But our situation is different?

[Peres] It is different because you have made it so. It is not different in its nature or legality but because we have decided to make it so.

[Nafi'] The Palestinians have accepted a two-phase redeployment of Israeli forces in line with the Declaration

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of Principles. Now, however, they are demanding that this be carried out according to a specific, agreed-upon timetable. Why does Israel object to this?

[Peres] No, we are not objecting. They want a one timetable; we want another. Redeployment is supposed to be completed by mid-1997. They want it completed in 1996 or early 1997. Where do they think they are? I don't think we will have a government in January or February 1997; if we hold the elections in November 1996, we will not form a government sooner than two or three months. The Palestinians cannot act as if they are the only party involved. They must take our problems and timing into account.

[Nafi'] It is difficult to understand why redeployment in Ramallah and Bethlehem will be delayed for two years, until the bypass roads are completed. These roads will not be discussed for three years, in the permanent-status negotiations.

[Peres] First of all, who said two years? The roads might be finished in six months. No one said two years. Furthermore, we did not propose the delay; we simply proposed gradual redeployment until the roads are completed. This should not delay the elections, however. They have also announced that they will redeploy their forces and do not tell me that they will not do this. [sentence as published]

[Nafi'] During the first phase?

[Peres] The formal, final agreement shows that they agree. They must not, however, expect us to put our people's lives in danger simply because they want to shorten the period by three or four months. I see no reason for that. I would like to make one thing clear: When we say redeployment will take place, this means it will not be delayed. We will relocate our camps and installations. We will, however, keep the roads for security reasons.

[Nafi'] Why are you excluding Hebron from the redeployment process?

[Peres] Hebron has a special status. We have settlers there and the situation is very tense. We have told the Palestinians that Hebron will not be excluded from the elections nor from other Palestinian arrangements and security matters pertaining to the interim phase. We will set up a committee to study the prospect of redeployment in Hebron but the process in this area is special.

[Nafi'] How long will it take to complete the first phase of the redeployment? Also, when will the Palestinian elections be held?

[Peres] If things go as planned, the elections will be held this year.

[Nafi'] In November perhaps?

[Peres] The Palestinians want November but this depends on many things, including the Palestinians themselves. If we reach a quick agreement, the elections can be held quickly. However, I wish to point out that the rumors saying Israel will only return Gaza are false. Israel has been the target of unfounded rumors.

[Nafi'] Where will the ballot boxes for the East Jerusalem voters be placed?

[Peres] We have proposed that Jerusalem's Palestinians vote by mail. This is the best solution. They will not have to travel to vote.

[Nafi'] This is an unprecedented method of voting.

[Peres] That is not true. In the United States, voters vote through the mail. We do not quite understand why the Palestinians are refusing this. It is a simple solution which will not create problems or confrontations. We believe that if we agree to have ballot boxes in Jerusalem, this will immediately prompt demonstrations leading to clashes. We proposed that the ballot boxes be placed outside the borders of the Jerusalem municipality by about five or 10 minutes. What is the problem? But the Palestinians want solutions with symbolic meaning. We refuse to make Jerusalem, even if only symbolically, a part of the Palestinians. In the special agreement during the transitional stage, no reference was made to Jerusalem. So how come they want it now? With regard to the nomination process, the nominee should have two addresses, one inside Jerusalem and the other somewhere in the West Bank.

[Nafi'] There were some reports that a proposal had been made to put the ballot boxes in al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

[Peres] We do not support this proposal. We respect mosques and churches as religious institutions. If this proposal is carried out, they will be transformed into political institutions. Therefore, they will be exposed to attack.

[Nafi'] What do you think the size of the elected council should be? And how close can you come to the Palestinian proposal?

[Peres] And why don't the Palestinians try to approach our proposal?

[Nafi'] Because you proposed 36 members in the council.

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[Peres] You believe that? How many members do you think there are?

[Nafi'] In light of the current situation and the situation of the families and tribes, the Palestinians are proposing somewhere between 80 to 100 members.

[Peres] They want a council consisting of 70 to 74 members. The idea going through the heads of the Palestinians is to include the number of deputies of the Jordanian parliament—around 40 members—and the members of the Gaza council when it was under Egyptian administration—it had 34 members. This total comes to 74. We have managed to resolve much more complicated problems than this one and we will find a solution to this one.

[Nafi'] This is very good news and I am happy to hear from you that you are getting closer to finding a solution. Now, what are the reasons for the dispute on transferring powers to the Palestinians in the eight proposed regions of the authority?

[Peres] We are approaching an agreement. But there are some complicated issues, such as the underground aquifers. It is difficult to determine where these aquifers are and how to distribute their waters. This is in addition to many other issues which require huge efforts such as the crossing laws and statistics. We have transferred to the Palestinians only five fields of authority, one of which is education. I believe that we are about to reach agreement on eight others, making a total of 13 fields that will have been transferred to them. After that, there will be 33 fields left over that we need to negotiate about. Negotiations continue, but they require huge effort.

[Nafi'] But how can we negotiate about peace when there are still 6,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails? It is also difficult to understand your demand that the Palestinian authorities should hand over 14 Palestinians accused of killing Israelis. Are you ready to hand over to the Palestinians the Israeli soldiers who killed willfully and intentionally?

[Peres] Every Israeli soldier who killed a Palestinian was tried and jailed. According to the agreement, the Palestinians have to hand over to us those who carried out terrorist operations before the conclusion of the agreement and the establishment of the Palestinian state [sentence as published]. They have to respect the agreement. Regarding the prisoners, we have released 6,000, some of whom reverted to terrorist actions. Therefore, we will not release another prisoner unless he signs a pledge not to return to terrorism. We have pledged to release other prisoners. But I believe that around 1,300 among the 5,000 criminals have been arrested since the conclusion of the agreement with the Palestinians. The Palestinians have to understand that we will not release those accused of killing women and children.

[Nafi'] The Labor Party has in fact paid the price for withdrawal from the Golan. Why don't you announce the withdrawal? The most important point in this issue is the conclusion of peace with Syria and Lebanon. It will impose itself before the Israeli elections. If the withdrawal is done, then you will win the elections and achieve peace and it will also become possible to conclude peace with some Gulf states.

[Peres] The Arabs have always repeated the term "land for peace." We have returned all the territories but we have not got peace. We want to be sure that we will get real peace and not a fictitious one. When you return a mountain, then this is something real and concrete but peace could be just an illusion. Therefore, we have to be sure first of what we will get. We also want to be sure of the security arrangements. We were attacked from the Golan and we do not want this to be repeated. All these points must be negotiated.

[Nafi'] What has been achieved in the field of regional economic cooperation? What has been done about the proposed Middle East Development Bank which was agreed on in Casablanca?

[Peres] We are facing many problems here because there was some opposition. But despite everything, I hope that we will announce the establishment of the bank at the Amman conference which is slated to be held in October. The Amman conference will be a follow-up to the Casablanca one. Some practical proposals are expected at the Amman conference. Another conference will be held in Barcelona at the end of November.

[Nafi'] Is it the conference pertaining to the Mediterranean countries?

[Peres] Yes. Also, there are existing private enterprise projects. The problem is that most people think we want to build a new Middle East. No, we are proposing that the Middle East adopt certain positions for the sake of building a new world. The problem is not whether Israel will merge with the Middle East but whether the Middle East will merge with the 21st century. Unless this is done, everyone in the Middle East will become poor and backward. We urge our Arab neighbors to look at the success of the Asian countries in adapting to the new world order and a market economy. Why don't you do the same? The way is clear. You must open the windows, doors, and borders. You must compete and enter the computer age. In Israel we do not need to do this because our economy is in good, even excellent,

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shape. I wish to ask our Arab neighbors: Why don't you apply a market economy? Without it they will remain poor. This is the real problem. I do not see how there can be any misunderstanding about this. Some people claim that Israel wants to dominate the Middle East and the Palestinians. Why would we want to do this? Does the Queen of England control Bangladesh or Pakistan? We have no reason to do this. Today countries prosper and become wealthy through technology and science, not through invasion and domination, which are costly and stupid. We propose to establish a bloc comprising all Middle Eastern countries that will operate according to modern economic laws to build a better and happier life for our nations.

[Nafi'] What have you done with regard to the introduction of modern technology in education?

[Peres] This plan will be submitted to the Barcelona conference.

[Nafi'] Are you drawing up the details of the plan?

[Peres] I hope so. However, the plan has been met with much suspicion. We do not understand why. In Israel we have already introduced modern technology in education. We can say that we have achieved spectacular results. Why don't you do the same? We are ready to offer material assistance in this sphere.

[Nafi'] Have you drawn up a detailed plan?

[Peres] We are doing so now.

[Nafi'] What is your attitude to some Israeli army generals from the Labor Party who call themselves the "third way" and oppose withdrawal from the Golan?

[Peres] There is no "third way." Even generals cannot cause problems now.

[Nafi'] Do you think they will fight the elections as independents?

[Peres] I am not sure about this. But they will be making a big mistake if they do.

[Nafi'] I believe that achieving peace with Syria will preempt such a movement. What do you think?

[Peres] Yes. But we need peace. We want to be sure of achieving peace with Syria.

[Nafi'] They are ready for peace now.

[Peres] That's what they are saying but we do not feel that these statements are sincere when we talk about the exchange of embassies, economic or cultural relations. We want peace with Syria and Lebanon, particularly after having achieved peace with Egypt and Jordan and being in the process of achieving it with the Palestinians. But we want to make sure that this will put an end to hostility in the Middle East. We want all the Middle East countries to declare an end to hostility to Israel because you can't ask Israel to pay for peace and to pay for war. Peace as well as war are expensive and we must be sure that the end of this battle is the end of war.

[Nafi'] All the Arab countries support peace.

[Peres] Yes. But has the Arab League said anything about peace? I do not think so.

[Nafi'] Yes. The Arab League Council issued a resolution supporting negotiations within the framework of the Madrid process for reaching comprehensive peace.

[Peres] But the Council has not taken any positive resolution since then to back peace but has supported the Arab boycott. It supported the Palestinians only through statements of protest. It is working against normalization. The Arab League issued a statement after the Madrid conference but it does not want to remember it now. The Arab League has taken only negative steps toward Israel since then.

[Nafi'] They are waiting for complete peace.

[Peres] Then let them wait. They are not helping anyone by waiting.

[Nafi'] Have you received an invitation to visit Washington to sign the transitional stage agreement?

[Peres] Yes. I have received an unofficial invitation.

[Nafi'] Has a date been set for signing the agreement?

[Peres] No. We will see these next days how the negotiations with the Palestinians will advance.

[Nafi'] Some are saying that the agreement will be signed in mid-July.

[Peres] I prefer to set a date. I hope an agreement will be reached in July. But the Palestinians must act too.

IDF To Remove Roadblocks From W. Bank Roads

TA0907102395 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 9 Jul 95 p A4

[Report by Ori Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] After the first stage of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment outside the cities of Janin, Tulkarm, Nabulus, and Qalqilyah, no IDF roadblocks will be placed between these cities and Palestinians will be able to travel freely between them. This was said by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to a group of U.S. Peace Now supporters last Friday [7 July].

The group members expressed the Palestinians' concern about the possibility that the security arrangements in

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the area would harm their freedom of movement. In reaction, Peres said there will be no roadblocks in the West Bank. Permanent roadblocks will be positioned only at the passage points along the Green Line.

Behira Berdugo, Peres' spokesperson, yesterday confirmed this information, adding that according to Israel's position IDF roadblocks in the West Bank will be placed only on an ad hoc basis, in case of an emergency security situation such as a terrorist attack.

The IDF has recently dismantled most of its permanent roadblocks in the West Bank, putting them back only in cases of security emergency. The main roadblock on the way to Nabulus, located in the Tapuah junction, has not been permanently manned for the last few weeks.

Peres' remarks could increase the support for the West Bank interim agreement among the Palestinians. Many have recently expressed the concern that the agreement would turn the four cities to be evacuated by the IDF into isolated enclaves of Palestinian authority, and that their residents would have to undergo thorough Israeli checks every time they travel outside the city limits. Nabulus residents last week told correspondents that if this is the situation after the redeployment, they prefer the present situation of an Israeli occupation.

Jew Stabbed in Jerusalem; 5 Arabs Injured in Janin Riots

TA0807123595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Jewish youth was stabbed in the hand near Damascus Gate in East Jerusalem this morning. He was slightly wounded and was taken to Sha'arey Tzedeq Hospital for treatment. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Border Police officers combed the site of the stabbing and detained several dozen Arabs for questioning.

Riots broke out in Janin this afternoon, after a group of demonstrators threw rocks at IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that soldiers wounded five local residents in the course of dispersing the riots. A young man sustained severe injuries to the head and was taken to a Ramallah hospital. Four other residents were slightly wounded, received medical treatment, and were sent home.

The IDF spokesman said in reaction that he is examining the reports.

Harish: U.S. Right in Claiming Nation Prefers EU Trade

TA0907102995 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 9 Jul 95 p 18

[Report by Navit Zomer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish, speaking at the end of the week at the Commercial Club in Tel Aviv, said that "the American ambassador to Israel is right to claim that Israel prefers to trade with Europe rather than with the United States."

Harish was reacting to statements made by U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk before the Israel-U.S. Chamber of Commerce last week. The ambassador had asserted that Israelis preferred to trade with Europe and demanded that trade with the United States, which provided aid to Israel, be given priority.

Indyk's assertions were based on Israel's $7 billion trade deficit with the European market. The ambassador also warned that this issue could undermine U.S. aid to Israel.

Harish said that the huge trade deficit vis-a-vis Europe was one of the reasons for his opposition to signing the trade agreement with the EU in its present format.

"I warned the government that the Americans — with whom we have a trade surplus — would not remain silent. We are making great efforts to meet the Americans halfway. We have taken a big step with regard to the taxation of cars manufactured in the United States. We still have a problem with the U.S. demand to permit the importation of meat from Nebraska. The Americans have a hard time understanding the problems caused by the Kashrut laws," Harish said.

Rabin Said Basing Policy on Campaign Interests

TA0707175595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jul 95 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "November 1996 Is Not Sacred Either"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "A leader should act like a bus driver: He should not be constantly looking over his shoulder, because it annoys the passengers." This pearl of wisdom by Shim'on Peres reflects the deep gap between his and Yitzhaq Rabin's view of November 1996: While the fear of a crushing defeat in the next election dictates Rabin's decisions about peace, Peres believes that a leader must do what a leader must do, without constantly checking what the public thinks about it. Deeds and not polls will determine the election results, says Peres.

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Pessimistic about the chances of attaining an agreement with Syria at this time, Peres blames not only al-Asad's intransigence but also our inability to decide on the strategic change required in our attitude toward Syria. What difference does another hill make when Syria is not our real enemy? It is the dark force of Islamic fundamentalism, made up of 1.2 billion fanatics. What is the point of sending army officers to discuss security arrangements before we have decided which side we want Syria to be on in the face of future threats?

It is easy for Peres to talk. He no longer aspires to run for prime minister, and one can get the impression that he no longer has a burning desire to remain politically active if his place as second in the next government is not guaranteed. Rabin, on the other hand, wants to lead Labor to a landslide victory in the next elections and be prime minister for four more years. Hence, the man who coined the idiom "there are no sacred dates" has sanctified November 1996 and has made his political moves subject to electoral considerations.

The impression is that the peace moves will or will not progress according to what is electorally beneficial for Rabin, as well as for a series of politicians whose life or death will be determined in the primaries that lurk just around the corner. When the clock begins ticking according to the needs of domestic politics, there is a double threat: that the process will slow down or, alternatively, that hasty concessions will be dictated by electoral needs and not the state's best interests.

The progress made with the Palestinians was well adjusted to Rabin's future elections campaign. He made sure he does not have to face either a serious confrontation with the settlers or the need to make a painful decision. The second stage of the military redeployment was scheduled for 1997, which established an interest on the Palestinian side to prevent murderous terror attacks inside Israel for fear they might bring the Likud to power and stop the continuation of Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 border.

Rabin created the equation of "territories versus time": It is easier to discontinue the evacuation of the territories than to reconquer them. If the Palestinian Covenant is not revoked, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will stop the evacuation — naturally, before the 1996 elections. Indeed, the negotiations on the final status are due to begin at the end of May 1996 — far enough from November to produce another ceremony on the lawn, but too close for tough decisions to have a negative impact on the elections results. Over the past few days, Rabin has repeatedly stated that all of his options are still open: "We will see how it works"; "there will be no next stage if the Covenant is not revoked"; "overall security will be in Israeli hands." In brief: We are pulling out, but we are not pulling out; a policy for all seasons and for every voter.

The sanctity of November 1996 here ties in with President Clinton's November 1996, at least on the Syrian issue. The administration wants an arrangement — ceremonies are such fine photo opportunities — in bid to rescue Clinton's collapsing edifice. Rabin, however, has not yet decided whether an agreement with Syria will serve him in the elections or lead to his downfall. The fact that they keep repeating that the deal with Syria must be made before the end of this year indicates just how deeply the process is subject to the interests of the campaigning politicians. Why by the end of this year? Who says negotiations cannot continue until this government's last breath? The prime minister was elected to conduct a policy, not to work for his reelection. A prime minister who works with elections in mind — whining when he does something and whining when he does not — might find himself either missing the "window of opportunities" with Syria and messing up with Lebanon or jumping into an arrangement with Syria and making more concessions than necessary.

We have never ever had a government whose electoral interests dictated the national needs of the State of Israel as in the case of the current one. No prime minister has ever given himself an ultimatum and made decisions that pertain to the shape of this country for generations to come on the basis of short-term political considerations as does Rabin. The truth is that it is the Arabs who should worry about the elections in Israel. A 50-year-old conflict should not be settled in accordance with the schedule of the Labor chairman. He should be doing what should be done when the time for it is right, and not in time for primaries or elections. November 1996 is no sacred date.

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Sources: New Initiative in Stalemate With Syria

JN0907103995 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] High-level diplomatic sources in Amman have said that the past few days have seen a new Jordanian initiative to break the stalemate plaguing Jordanian-Syrian ties since the signing of the Wadi al-'Arabah treaty. According to these sources, a former Jordanian prime minister secretly flew to Damascus the week before last and met with several Syrian officials. He discussed with them the means of removing the obstacles standing in the way of normalizing ties.

The sources have not revealed how successful the new rapprochement bid was. Nonetheless, they have ruled out its failure, because Damascus champions solutions to inter-Arab disputes and also because of the good ties the former Jordanian prime minister in question maintains with Damascus.

The sources believed that the success that could be produced by the visit could only allow for a visit to Damascus by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in the near future for talks with his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' on the details of the two countries' hushed dispute.

Paper Criticizes Rabin's 'Joint Framework' Offer

JN0807100395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Jul 95 pp 1, 29

[Editorial: "Rabin's No's Mean No for Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian leadership has repeatedly stressed the need for a comprehensive peace in the region and a just solution to the Palestine question, primarily the issue of Jerusalem, on the basis of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula. These are some of the major requirements for peace, security, and stability in the region. They are also necessary to preserve peace and close the chapter of war.

His Majesty King Husayn and other Jordanian officials have frequently underlined Jordan's support for the sovereignty of the fraternal Palestinian people on their soil and their right to self-determination. It is also the right of the Palestinian people to have east Jerusalem as their capital, since it is an indivisible part of the 1967-occupied West Bank.

The Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has consolidated Jordan's national independence within its historical boundaries. We find it strange and deplorable, therefore, that the Israeli leaders continue to involve Jordan in unrealistic arrangements for the future of the occupied West Bank, although these arrangements are not the subject of any agreement or treaty between Jordan and Israel. Take, for example, the Israeli prime minister's interview with DAVAR yesterday, in which he speaks about "finding some kind of joint framework among Jordan, the Palestinian entity, and Israel."

Rabin yesterday declared four no's: No to return to the 1967 borders with Syria and Palestine; no to dividing Jerusalem; no to dismantling the settlements; and no to a Palestinian state. These no's are absolutely not conducive to confidence-building between Tel Aviv and the Arab negotiators on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks. We would have viewed these no's as part of the domestic Israeli political game on the eve of Israeli elections had it not been for the Israeli consensus on these no's, which turns them into strategic principles. In addition, these no's are supported by daily concrete actions by Israel in the occupied territories, especially in Jerusalem. These no's have also coincided with a relaxation in Syrian and Palestinian negotiations with Israel and with other statements by Israeli officials saying that the Palestinians will have authority over 18 percent only, as Foreign Minister Peres said, and 3 percent, as Singer, the planner of agreements with the Palestinians, said, according to the agreement expected to be signed on 25 July.

We can only express concern over the future of peace in the region as a result of these Israeli statements. These statements threaten the peace process, violate the Madrid frame of reference, contradict the resolutions of international legitimacy, frustrate Palestinian national aspirations, and weaken Arab confidence in Israel's peace credibility.

Rabin's no's mean no for peace.

Hashd Secretary General Announces Resignation

JN1007102595 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Jul 95 p 27

[Report by Khalil al-Shawbaki]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Taysir al-Zibri, secretary general of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, Hashd, announced his resignation from the party yesterday. In a statement to reporters, al-Zibri said that he resigned because he became fully convinced that it is impossible to solve differences within the current structure of the party and among the joint commissions between Hashd and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]. He said: Differences among the majority of the party's leadership reached an im-

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passe on the national needs to make the party independent of the DFLP amid an insistence by the majority of the party's leadership to establish a relationship on bases that lack equitability and organizational independence and to entrench the concept of party dependency. Al-Zibri considered this a contradiction to the framework of joint action between the DFLP and the party. He added that insistence on dependency greatly harmed Hashd, weakened its national role, and obliterated its national identity and political program. [passage omitted]

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Buwayz, German Foreign Minister Hold Talks

NC0707143895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at the Presidential Palace this morning. He held a news conference prior to his departure from Lebanon. Our colleague Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din, NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent at the Presidential Palace, said the following:

[Begin recording] After the meeting with the president, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel held a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. At the beginning of the news conference, Minister Buwayz said: We feel that all are ready to draw up a new, broad framework of cooperation between Germany and Lebanon. Also, we believe there is a new mechanism for bolstering our bilateral relations. We dealt with Germany as the European group's most important element. We agreed to resume Lufthansa flights and to avoid tax duplicity.

Responding to a question, Minister Buwayz said Lebanon has defined its participation in the peace process as being based on Resolution 425; land liberation is Lebanon's concern. Regarding the issues dictating cooperation between the region's countries, we are trying to coordinate efforts on such cooperation.

For his part, the German minister said: Our talks revolved around the peace process. Germany supports Lebanon's sovereignty and the implementation of Resolution 425. We and the other European countries need a free, democratic Lebanon. We also dealt with Palestinian issues. As Palestinians live in Lebanon, we stressed the need for solving their problem as part of the peace process.

The German minister added: Lebanon has an ancient civilization and history. I am confident that Lebanon will retain its role as a bridge between the East and West. He congratulated the Lebanese for their accomplishments in postwar construction.

The German minister responded to a question by saying: We want the policy between Israel and the Arab countries to be moderate. To another question on Resistance operations in the south, which some people have described as terrorist, the German minister said: We support Resolution 425. But we reject all terrorist actions, particularly when we can reach a solution peacefully, rather than resorting to the use of force. [end recording]

Dallul on Normalization of Relations With Israel

NC0807164395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said normalization of relations with Israel is not a threat to Lebanon. However, he pointed out that normalization will not be easy, and may take many years. He said, once peace is established, the Lebanese will need over 10 years to restore their country as a great economic, media, and services center in the Middle East.

The defense minister noted Lebanon and Syria's willingness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, but that Israel continues to put up obstacles. He particularly commended the positive steps achieved by the Lebanese Army to maintain stability and security.

'Violent' Israeli Bombardment of South Reported

NC0907160395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from south Lebanon, the security situation flared up in the western sector at about 1700 today. Israeli forces bombarded the village of al-'Izziyah with 155-mm rounds from their positions in Tallat al-Hardun. The bombardment soon extended to Jibal al-Butum. The Islamic Resistance then fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets at northern Israel. The violent bombardment continued until 1720. The Islamic Resistance later fired another salvo of rockets. Israeli military aircraft flew low over the area and staged mock raids.

The outskirts of the villages of al-Sh'aytiyah, al-Malikiyah, al-Qulaylah, al-Mansuri, and Zibqin have come under a violent artillery barrage from the enemy positions in Dayr Harfa. In the central sector, the villages of Kafr Dhal, the outskirts of Mayfadun, Shukin, and the al-Litani River basin have come under sporadic artillery barrages from the Israeli positions in al-Zaffatah. Israeli aircraft also flew over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Moreover, Israeli forces have pounded the outskirts of Jibshit, 'Atshit, Mayfadun, al-Hamra', Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and al-Tasah basin. Sniper fire at Jba' injured Yusuf Jizzini.

Severe tension grips al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa following the Israeli bombardment of the town, which caused the martyrdom of sisters Jihan 'Ali Budayr, 16, and Silvana 'Ali Budayr, 13.

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Exiled General 'Awn: Return Decision Final

JN0707192795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1622 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Interview with exiled General Michel 'Awn by Salim Badawi in Paris on the "Week's Event" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Badawi] Lebanon is hearing your voice for the first time in more than four years. This comes after your recent decision to return. What are your impressions at this particular moment?

['Awn] Certainly my natural place is in Lebanon and not here. At this difficult phase in Lebanon—a phase which is getting more difficult every day—my place should be there to direct the political affairs in the country because these affairs are taking a wrong course. Nobody can extricate Lebanon from its troubles by the current standards and things that are now taking place. Therefore, a change in all fields is necessary. This gives me hope that if I return—of course the decision to return is certain unless international obstacles are placed on my path—I feel that I will be able to place the Lebanese situation on the path of correction and progress, that we will be able to reverse the current course.

[Badawi] Is the return decision merely an expression of a desire or a political test balloon as some have described it? Or is it a final decision that you will carry out no matter what the cost?

['Awn] The return decision is final and is is my natural right to be in my homeland. I do not think that there is any law that prevents me. But if a confrontation takes place by force, I will not have enough power to face the forces on the ground unless this is done by a popular revolution. I do not intend to do that now. I said that my return will be a peaceful return. I will resist by passive, peaceful means and not by violent means. If they confront me with violent means, I will not have the power to return. But I regard this as my right. My presence in Lebanon is the same as the right of the Lebanese people in Lebanon. I know whom I represent and I am speaking in this capacity.

[Badawi] What about the date of your return and the controversy between you and the Lebanese authorities. They say that you can return to Lebanon in August 1996 but you say that your return should be by next October?

['Awn] On 13 October 1990, I entered the French embassy, which is a French territory. I have been under the law of silence since then. Therefore, my presence on French territory began on 13 October 1990. Therefore, the period expires on 13 October 1995.

[Badawi] This is the timeframe of the agreement they talk about?

['Awn] The timefame agreed between them and the French. There was no agreement with me. I was not told of the beginning or the end of the period. I personally asked the French authorities to define the date for me—if there was an agreed upon date; how the 5-year period was defined—and I have not received the answer yet. Therefore, I call on the citizens to wait because some of the papers say that he will be returning on 13 October. Let them allow me to fix the date of my return depending on developments from now and for a short period of time. Therefore, I told them everything is possible after 13 October and not on 13 October as the papers say. [passage omitted]

[Badawi] General 'Awn: With regard to your position on the Lebanese regime, what are your conditions for a reconciliation with the Lebanese regime?

['Awn] I am not seeking a reconciliation with the Lebanese regime. I am seeking neither a reconciliation nor hostility with it. I am not satisfied with the current state of affairs. It is my right and it is the right of the Lebanese people to work for a change. I am not about to announce a deal with anybody. I view the current state of affairs in Lebanon as abnormal, unhealthy, and inappropriate. I seek to rectify this state of affairs through peaceful means. It is my hope that everybody will handle my efforts peacefully, as required by democratic traditions.

[Badawi] With regard to the relationship with Damascus, how can Gen. 'Awn's relationship with Syria be normalized? On what bases or foundations can this be achieved?

['Awn] This is contingent upon a rectification of Syria's relationship with the Lebanese people. When Syria's relationship with the Lebanese people becomes healthy, its relationship with me will become healthy. This relationship will not become healthy unless Lebanon becomes a sovereign and free country. This is achievable when Lebanon signs an agreement with Syria. Lebanon and Syria must honor such an agreement. This is one of our objectives. The announcement of broad agreements providing for cooperation, friendly ties, affection, brotherly ties, which allow for exploitation and violation of sovereignty is unacceptable to us.

[Badawi] As regards the Middle East negotiations, Gen. 'Awn, how would you assess the situation on the Lebanese-Israeli track of negotiations?

['Awn] There is no Lebanese-Israeli track of negotiations as such. At present, Lebanon is subservient to Syria. I believe that Lebanon will be obliged to sign the

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agreements that could be worked out between Israel and Syria. Had it actually been a party to the negotiations, Lebanon would have been the third party at the negotiating table. This is because it is impossible and unacceptable for the negotiations among Israel, Lebanon, and Syria to make progress unless the three parties sit at the same table. It is unacceptable for Lebanon to be held hostage to Syria. In the same vein, Lebanon should not be held hostage to Israel. The three parties must sit at the same negotiating table. This is because Lebanon is suffering a dual occupation. Any agreement must remove the obstacles created by both parties. Any such agreement must involve both parties. We will not forget the allegations frequently made to the effect that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon unless Syria does. At other times, the Israelis said that they would condone a continuous Syrian presence in Lebanon. This is because the negotiations most probably have made progress one way or another. Thus, Lebanon has turned into a bargaining chip. It no longer acts as an independent and sovereign state. It is a bargaining chip used in the negotiations. This is a great humiliation to national dignity. As for national rights, they have been forfeited. It is my fear that the survival of Lebanon, if it were to survive, would be the outcome of differences between Syria and Israel. As a matter of fact, Lebanon must not accept such a destiny. It must exist on its own.

[Badawi] Gen. Michel 'Awn: You upheld national resistance when you were at the B'abda Palace. Now, you have a distinct attitude toward constant tension in southern Lebanon and toward Islamic resistance there.

['Awn] I believe that on the national level, Lebanon's territorial and water rights have been recognized. These issues are no longer contested. Hence, it is my view that exercising one-upmanship in resistance is currently harmful. Therefore, emphasis must be laid on tripartite negotiations. Once these negotiations fail to produce the desired results, then everybody will be ready to engage in military resistance. It is bad for us to engage in acts of resistance only to see another side use our resistance to improve its own position and not that of Lebanon. By our presence at the negotiating table, along with Syria and Israel, we would know with a great deal of certainty the party that is obstructing the negotiations, and the party that seeks to lay its hands on Lebanon. Consequently, we as Lebanese, the whole Lebanese people, would be able to put up a concerted resistance. This is better than seeing a single group monopolizing the right to engage in acts of resistance, and determine Lebanon's destiny, regardless of whether or not this group is pursuing a sound policy. [Badawi] Thank you, Gen. Michel 'Awn.

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Khaddam on Peace Talks, Israeli Withdrawal

NC1007111795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 10 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has said peace between Syria and Israel could be achieved within 10 days if Israel decides to return to the international legitimacy resolutions, to withdraw behind the 4 June 1967 borders, and to accept equitable, parallel, and reciprocal security arrangements. He said Syria is waiting to see what Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator for the peace process, is carrying with him to the region, where he will arrive today.

In statements published by the Lebanese paper AL-SAFIR today, Khaddam said the military talks between Syria and Israel have not yet reached specific results and that the two teams are presenting their own concepts of how to implement the security arrangements if there is peace.

He added that the agreement on concepts that was reached means we have reached an understanding on the bases for the security arrangements. He noted that the meeting of the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff was meant to view each of the two countries' concepts of implementing these arrangements, adding that it appears we disagree with Israel on this issue.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam stressed that the recent round of military talks between Syria and Israel, which was held in Washington, was more serious than previous rounds and that the Israelis seriously discussed this issue but this did not close the wide gap that remains between the two countries.

Describing the U.S. stance in the negotiations as serious, the Syrian vice president said Washington is playing a major role but the issue depends on a decision by Israel. He added that some European countries are asking Syria to make its stance more flexible so as to support the Rabin government to stay in power. He asked: How do we help Rabin and do we concede our rights? Is this our problem or Rabin's.

He stressed that Syria will not relinquish its rights and will not leave a single inch of soil for Israel. He asserted that the only way to achieve a solution is full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and acceptance of the equitable and reciprocal security arrangements.

He noted that his country does not differentiate between the Labor and Likud parties and does not play with the Israeli election card. He said Damascus has told Washington that Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon will ensure an end to Hizballah's operations against the occupation forces and that the party's resistance will not chase them to Haifa. He stressed Syria's backing for the Lebanese resistance until the occupation ends.

Papers on Israel's 'Selectivity'

JN0807065195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 8 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, AL-THAWRAH comments on the selectivity practiced by Israel at Washington's military talks, which distorts the truth of these negotiations.

AL-THAWRAH says: Last week's extremely contradictory leaks are within this context. This confirms that what happened in Washington did not meet the high expectations and optimism. Once again, Israel has not demonstrated any substantive change in its practices, contrary to what many people had expected.

The paper adds: If Israel pursues this policy, then this means that it is not serious about peace and that it only wants to polish its image in foreign media, without really engaging in the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH says this is getting clearer now. The selectivity practiced by Israel is totally rejected and it contradicts international legitimacy. Should such a policy persist, it will undermine the entire peace process.

Elaborating on the meaning of this selectivity, the paper says: What is meant by this is the selection of certain components of peace, such as full withdrawal, parallel and equal [tawaziha wa tasawiha] security arrangements, and then security and the other components stipulated in Security Council Resolution 242.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel is looking for the components that suit it and achieve its political and strategic interests. It wants to select from these components that which achieves its ambitions without committing itself to the other components that complement the peace process and without which this process cannot succeed.

The paper asserts that when Israel insists on this approach, then this means that it is bent on obstructing peace. The paper concludes that the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Security Council should not be subject to whims and private interests. Security must not be for one party at the expense of another. This principle is not up for bargaining. Also, it is impossible to bargain over any other peace component.

TISHRIN says the recent Washington talks were serious, as everybody has acknowledged. The success of the military aspect of the peace talks depends on Israel.

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This requires that Israel deal with the peace process more seriously and stop making frustrating, vague, and contradictory statements. The talks have dragged on and there is a need to dot the i's.

TISHRIN asserts that a serious issue such as that of peace requires that the Israeli Government adopt a clear and decisive stand toward the requirements of peace, primarily full withdrawal. Peace and occupation are irreconcilable. It is common knowledge that Syria will never cede one inch of its territory and will not accept any Israeli military presence, even if this covers 1 km of the Golan.

The paper adds that peace with Syria means peace with Lebanon and strengthening the entire peace process in the region. No two observers would disagree that peace in the Middle East is much more important than any regional gain. This is because peace provides security, assurance, and prosperity, while regional expansion is a source of tension and conflict. The issue of peace in the Middle East is the concern of the whole world, since world peace is linked to peace in our region.

TISHRIN concludes: Achieving a just and firm peace is an international affair, just as it is an Arab and Israeli affair. A firm peace is dependent on achieving justice and right, removing aggression and occupation, and consolidating international law as the only reference for disputes. This requires a shift in Israel's position, a decisive decision to fully withdraw to the 4 June lines, and adopting the principle of equitability [al-takafu'] in any arrangements that are agreed on.

Radio Calls For Total Withdrawal

JN0707142395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said at the end of his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad that Syria has a major role to play in the peace process and that the EU member states attach great importance to Syria's participation, without which it is impossible to attain the desired comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

European officials who visited the region also made statements similar to the ones which the German foreign minister made during his joint news conference with the Syrian foreign minister yesterday. They highly valued Damascus' positive and constructive stands toward the peace process, and showed readiness, as Kinkel did, to extend massive economic aid.

It is obvious that the EU member states, as well as many other big or small countries, are passionately looking forward to a stable peace in the Middle East because such a peace will positively reflect on world peace and the interwoven interests in this vital region of the world. Arab-Israeli peace is no longer an Arab-Israeli affair. Rather, it has become an international affair, and the major role in making this peace is the responsibility of the parties that are directly involved.

As the whole world yearned for a firm world peace and pinned great hopes on U.S. peace endeavors, Syria honestly and responsibly responded to these efforts and made several proposals to build a firm Middle East peace that cannot be affected by any events and changes. Justice, comprehensiveness, and dignity have been big titles for the desired firm peace. Regaining the rights will remove every sense of injustice. Comprehensiveness means settling the conflict on the various fronts and dignity is supposed to entrench the principle of equitability and balance.

But Israel has been maneuvering and evading the requirements of peace, foremost of which is total withdrawal from the Golan, out of its belief that some Arab parties' violation of the principles of peace and their signing of unilateral agreements will make Syria offer similar concessions. But the Israeli arrow has missed the target because Syria's belief in peace and its principles is unshakable.

Due to growing international pressure, however, Israel has gone back on its previous stands and has repeatedly talked about withdrawal from the Golan on the condition that acceptable security arrangements be made. Syria said that it would discuss such arrangements only if they are even [muta'adilah], equitable, and equal [mutasawyah].

Everybody knows that military talks were held in Washington without producing any decisive results. Meanwhile, the U.S. Administration's envoy, Dennis Ross, is planning to come to the region in a new endeavor. In all its talks, Syria proceeded from two essential points: Israel should carry out a complete and total withdrawal to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines and accept the principle of equitability in any security arrangements that will follow that withdrawal.

It is clear that Israel has not yet made what its officials call difficult and painful decisions, that is, the return to the pre-June lines because any arrangements will be closely linked to the extent of the Israeli withdrawal. As it is known, Syria will not bargain over any inch of Golan land and will refuse to make the Golan a subject of negotiations. Security Council resolutions are clear and frank and they do not permit any side to occupy territories, tamper with their nature, or establish settlements on them.

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So, peace with Syria depends on Israel's total withdrawal, and without peace with Syria, there will be no peace in the Middle East, as everybody admits. The Israeli rulers are talking about gaps between the Syrian and Israeli positions. These gaps are simply created by Israel's attempts to retain part of the occupied Syrian territory or to maintain an Israeli military presence in it. Syria — and the international law — rejects this because it sharply conflicts with the bases of the peace process. There will be no peace with Syria unless it is just and equitable and preserves dignity.

Al-Shar' on Manama Meeting, Mideast Peace Process

JN0807195495 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 8 Jul (WAKH) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has expressed optimism concerning the Damascus Declaration meetings in Bahrain, and has stressed that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers view their talks with optimism and are determined to develop cooperation between the member states.

Speaking on the peace process in a statement to the Gulf News Agency, the Syrian foreign minister said Syria has a firm and principled adherence to the Middle East peace process, and stressed the need for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. He emphasized that his country wants full and comprehensive peace in the region.

On the continuation of the aggressions against southern Lebanon, he said these aggressions have adverse results on the future of the Middle East peace process. He said the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon will end this tension and help realize peace in the region.

Newspapers Comment

JN1007060395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 10 Jul 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the meeting of the Damascus Declaration states' foreign ministers in Manama. These states have emphasized their firm support for Syria's just demands, including Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines, ending Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, and implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions. These states also appreciate Syria's efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and make the peace process succeed.

The paper says Syria has spared no effort to put the peace process on the right track. Syria's agreement to hold military talks in Washington is good evidence of its concern about peace in the Middle East.

TISHRIN adds: Had it been dependent on Syria alone, peace would now have been a concrete reality. However, Israel's maneuvers and evasion of the obligations of the peace process have prevented this. The paper points out that Syrian-Lebanese peace with Israel is the basis of comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Without the participation of Syria and Lebanon, it is impossible for the peace process to achieve the desired progress. The international community is aware that there can be no peace without Syria and that Syria is indeed the foundation of any real and firm peace in the region.

TISHRIN concludes: It is no coincidence that the United States and other influential states attach great importance to peace with Syria. Syria is proposing a real peace that can ride out all crises. Partial agreements have never made peace. Settling the Arab-Israeli conflict depends on adopting the principles of justice, right, and comprehensiveness. All these are enshrined in the relevant Security Council resolutions. Syria is not asking for anything more than implementing these resolutions.

AL-BA'TH comments on the upcoming tour of Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator for the peace process, as part of the U.S. Administration's efforts to advance the peace process and make it achieve its objectives.

The paper says: Ross's tour comes in the wake of the talks between the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff in Washington. These talks did not achieve the supposed progress that will help in advancing the peace process. It is clear that the contradictory and vague Israeli position was behind the failure to make progress.

AL-BA'TH says the new tour should achieve some progress in the right direction to allow the peace process to take tangible steps to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. For this to happen, the Israeli position must change and become clearer regarding the conditions and requirements for establishing real peace. It is no longer possible for the Israeli policy toward the peace process to remain the same. This is because the continuation of this policy means one thing, that Israel does not want to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region and that all it wants from the peace process is to establish an Israeli-styled peace. This is rejected by Syria in word and deed.

AL-BA'TH underlines Syria's conditions to establish a just and comprehensive peace. First, returning the Golan in full, which means that the Israeli forces must withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines. Second, rejecting any Israeli presence of any kind on our land. Third, the security arrangements must be equal and balanced

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[mutasawiyah wa mutawazinah] on both sides of the border. The success of the peace process depends on Israel's withdrawal from our land.

The paper adds: These are some of our constant principles in the peace process. No doubt, Israel is well aware of these principles.

Radio Commentary on Israeli Shelling in Lebanon

JN0907173995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the arrival of the U.S. coordinator of the peace process in the region, the Israelis have intensified their own ways of welcoming him. The shelling and destruction of Lebanese towns and villages has expanded, spreading terror and leaving children and civilians as victims. On the other hand, the Israeli officials have intensified their contradictory statements, most of which do not serve the peace efforts and are not in line with the relatively optimistic atmosphere that was created by the Washington talks between the military officials, and the framework of understanding on the basis of which the meeting of the two chiefs of staff was held, and in which the U.S. Administration participated and which it sponsored.

We do not think that this particular Israeli welcome of the U.S. peace efforts and the U.S. Administration's envoy reveals any eagerness to advance the peace process. The Israeli officials cannot convince anyone of the pretexts and justifications they put forward, whether with regard to southern Lebanon and the resistance, or to the Syrian track of the peace talks and the conditions which this or that Israeli official announces, such as limited partial withdrawal and testing the Syrian peace intentions. According to the Israeli statements, this test requires the establishment of relations and normalization before withdrawal from the land, returning rights to their owners, and removing the settlements that were brought by the occupation. This conflicts with the essence of peace and the concept of anyone who is concerned with the peace process.

According to the U.S. initiative and Madrid conference, the aspired peace is based on land for peace and Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 which are the basis and terms of reference of the peace process, consider the occupation null and illegal, and do not change the fact that the Golan is an Arab and Syrian territory to the last inch occupied by Israel in the aggression of 5 June 1967, and southern Lebanon is Lebanese territory from which Israel should unconditionally withdraw in accordance with Resolution 425.

In the face of these facts that Israel presents daily, how can analysts draw an optimistic picture and expect great results that will end tension and threat and move the region to peace, security, and stability as long as Israel insists on ignoring the peace facts and the resolutions of international legitimacy, which are the basis of peace? Israel says it wants peace and is serious in its efforts to realize it, and accuses others of delaying the achievement of peace. How can this be true while it maneuvers over open and clear recognition of the need for full withdrawal from the occupied Golan to the borders that preceded the 5 June 1967 aggression, evades recognition of Resolution 425 on southern Lebanon and intensifies shelling, killing, and destruction? Moreover, it demands the punishment of the Lebanese for defending their land and right to life.

Is this vivid proof of Israeli's seriousness to achieve just and solid peace that meets the international consensus on peace? This peace should be in harmony with the result sought by the U.S. sponsor and with all international efforts which believe that a just and comprehensive peace in the region serves international peace and security.

Despite all these facts regarding Israel's policy toward peace, and the threat it poses to peace and the future of peace, Syria has continued to emphasize to the entire world that peace is its strategic option, and that it seeks only justice and implementation of the international resolutions. Therefore, it is serious in providing all the logical conditions for reaching the aspired peace—peace that ensures rights and dignity for all. The U.S. Administration and all the international forces concerned with peace in the region have realized this situation. Syria wants peace, and provides the opportunities for the success of peace efforts, but not at the expense of rights, sovereignty, and return of all the land, and also not at the expense of all security arrangements that result from this, which require equitability [takafu'] and equality [tasawi] so that peace will be lasting and durable based on the support of the region's peoples, who want to see a just, comprehensive peace that ends the state of war and threat to their security and future.

Minister Rejects Early Warning Stations

NC0807204695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2020 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 8 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stated that placing early warning stations on Syrian territory is an unacceptable infringement of its sovereignty. He said such stations are more a cause for incitement and provocation than a guarantee of security.

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In an interview with AL-WAFD newspaper to be published on 9 July, Salman explained that modern technology makes it possible for surveillance and monitoring to be carried out from far away. He added that guarantor powers, such as the country sponsoring the peace talks, and UN resolutions can guarantee peace better than early warning stations placed inside Syrian territory.

The Syrian information minister said his country is seeking a comprehensive and just peace, something that can be attained only by full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and south Lebanon. He declared that Israel is the party that must demonstrate its good intentions to reassure the other regional countries. He said it must revise its policies and stop its hostile acts.

Salman said he appreciated Egypt's backing of Syrian positions at international forums and President Husni Mubarak's efforts to bolster the Syrian pursuit to regain its territories.

On the prospect for concluding a Syrian-Israeli peace treaty in the next few months, Salman said it depended on Israel's responsiveness. This is because Syria will not accept a peace that guarantees one country's interests at the expense of another.

Al-Asad Receives Sudanese Minister, Message

JN0807160795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Mahdi Ibrahim Muhammad, Sudanese minister of state for presidential affairs, at the al-Rawdah Palace at 1330 today. The meeting was attended by Wahib Fadil, minister of state for presidential affairs; and 'Uthman al-Dardiri al-Mubarak, Sudan's ambassador in Damascus.

Mahdi Muhammad conveyed a message to the president from Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir dealing with the Arab situation and relations. The president then handed the Sudanese minister a reply message.

Talks during the meeting centered on developments in the Arab arena in general; the situation between the two fraternal countries, Egypt and Sudan; and bilateral relations. The president noted the importance of purifying Arab relations and of refraining from anything that may reflect negatively on Arab relations and the Arab situation under current circumstances.

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India

Reportage, Commentary on Recent Kidnappings

Two Hostages Reportedly Released

BK0707161295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants abducted four journalists from their office in Pratap Park enclave in Srinagar last night. Two of them were released today. Two editors of the local dailies are still in the captivity of the militants. The abduction has come close on the heels of Tuesday's [4 July] abduction of four foreign tourists from Pahalgam.

Talking to newsmen in Tirupati today, the prime minister said that all possible efforts will be made to trace and secure the release of foreign tourists kidnapped by militants in Kashmir. Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao described the kidnapping as a deliberate attempt by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists to create chaos both nationally and internationally.

Meanwhile, the United States said it is working closely with the Indian Government to secure the release of four tourists in Jammu and Kashmir. Two diplomats of the UK and U.S. embassies are camping at Srinagar.

The adviser to the Jammu and Kashmir governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Satlani, is personally supervising the efforts to trace out the abducted tourists. Search parties have been sent in different directions.

'Massive Efforts' Underway

BK0807084695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, massive efforts are on to trace four American and British tourists abducted by pro-Pakistan armed militants from (Ledarve), about 30 km from Pahalgam, on Tuesday [4 July] evening. Search is also on for the two journalists kidnapped from Pratap Park area of Srinagar yesterday. An official spokesman told AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent that help of private agencies and the local people has been sought. Aerial survey was also conducted in the mountainous areas of Pahalgam. Two American and British diplomats camping in Srinagar are in touch with the state administration. They are also trying to establish contacts with the abductors through different sources for the safe release of their nationals.

The spokesman said that the abduction of tourists has been resorted to by a foreign mercenary at a time when the tourist traffic is picking up in the Kashmir Valley. He said in the first six months of 1995, 3,300 foreign tourists had come to the valley for holidaying. The former chief minister and National Conference leader, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has termed the kidnapping as un-Islamic and against the Kashmiri culture of peace, brotherhood and hospitality. He asked the abductors to release the kidnapped persons without any harm.

Meanwhile, 18 persons, including 10 militants, were killed yesterday while security forces apprehended six militants. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered during search operations and encounters in the valley. The state governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, has said that the election to the autonomous Hill Development Council for the Leh District will be held soon. The governor, who is on a four-day tour of the district, said the people of Ladakh will be benefited by the constitution of the council with their own elected representatives.

TV Reports on U.S. Support

BK0807151295 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States has supported India's efforts to secure the release of four abducted foreign tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir. A State Department spokesman said in Washington that America is extending full cooperation to the Indian Government in securing the safe release of the captives. He said a U.S. diplomat is coordinating with the Indian Government in Srinagar. A diplomat from Britain is also camping at the site.

Meanwhile, as the search for the tourists abducted by the militants from Pahalgam area on Tuesday [4 July] continues, pro-Pakistan militants abducted one more foreign tourist from upper reaches of Pahalgam area today. An official spokesman told our Srinagar correspondent that the abducted tourist is a German, Mr. Dirk Hasert. The adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Satlani, and director general of police, Mr. M.M. Sabharwal, today visited Pahalgam and personally assessed the progress of the efforts launched to trace out the abducted foreign tourists.

Officials Say Same 'Militants' Possible

BK0907091395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, massive efforts continue to trace the abducted five foreign tourists and establish contact with the abductors. Two American and two British tourists were kidnapped on Tuesday [4 July] last from Lidderwat and one German tourist yesterday in the upper reaches of Pahalgam. A search is also on to trace two journalists kidnapped

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from the Pratap Park area of Srinagar on Thursday. Official sources say the involvement of the same group of militants in the kidnappings cannot be ruled out. The state government has once again appealed to the kidnappers to release the abducted foreign tourists without any harm. The adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Saklani, and the director general of the state police, Mr. M.N. Sabharwal, yesterday visited Pahalgam and personally took stock of the efforts being made to trace the kidnapped tourists.

Meanwhile, the militants have released all the six forest officials who were kidnapped last Sunday from Kotidassa forest in Doda District. They had been abducted while on duty in the forest. Twelve people, including nine militants, were killed in encounters while the security forces apprehended 20 others in the valley. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

Meanwhile, a powerful blast took place last evening on the Jammu- Pathankot railway section at Gaguwal near Samba, about 60 km from Jammu. The inspector general of police, Mr. A.K. Suri, told AIR Jammu correspondent that a meter-long railway track was blown off following the blast. The track has since been restored.

U.S. Tourist Escapes From Captivity

BK0907091795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, one of the five foreign tourists kidnapped by the militants in Pahalgam area early this week has returned to safety. Official reports reaching Srinagar say that an American tourist managed to escape from the captivity of its abductors and was later rescued by the state authorities. One American, two British, and a German tourist are still in the captivity of the militants.

Meanwhile, the search for the remaining kidnapped tourists and two journalists is on. The state authorities have again appealed to the militants to release the foreign tourists without any harm in the larger interest of the people of the state. According to AP, the escaped tourist's mother told newsmen at Salem in New York that Mr. Childs spoke to her on telephone to inform her of his escape. He told her that he is safe and unharmed.

Radio Reports Further on Escape

BK0907125695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two journalists abducted by militants have been freed, while one of the kidnapped foreigners has escaped from his captors. The journalists were let off around 1130 this morning at a bus stand in Baramula District after being kept in captivity for 65 hours. They were abducted along with two other journalists who were freed earlier.

As reported, an American tourist kidnapped by militants from Pahalgam managed to escape from captivity and was later rescued by state authorities. Talking to newspersons in Srinagar today, the adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General D.D. Saklani, said that he along with the DG [director general of] police, tracking the area in a helicopter yesterday evening, spotted a man on the ridge of a snow-clad mountain en route Sheshnag. The pilot of the helicopter in a daredevil act landed on the mountain and rescued the American tourist. Later, he was brought to Srinagar and provided medical help. He hoped that the other four foreign abducted tourists will be set free by the militants.

'Militants' Set Deadline for Demands

BK1007035495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, efforts to secure the release of kidnapped tourists are continuing. The militants have set next Saturday [15 July] as the deadline for the state authorities to meet their demand of setting free 22 arrested militants in exchange for the three kidnapped American and British tourists. No one has so far claimed responsibility for kidnapping the German tourist. Eighteen of the 22 militants being demanded to be set free are Pak [Pakistani] mercenaries involved in various crimes. Our correspondent reports that the two top militants belonging to the Harkatul Ansar are also amongst those demanded to be released. A German diplomat from Delhi has arrived in Srinagar to coordinate the efforts to secure the release of kidnapped German tourist.

Commentary Blames 'Pro-Pakistani' Group

BK0807102795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Commentary by Uma Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The abduction of four foreign tourists — two American and two British nationals — on Tuesday [4 July] and four journalists yesterday by the militants has once again brought Kashmir and the issue of Kashmir between India and Pakistan to the center stage of international attention. So far, no headway has been made and the four foreign tourists still remain untraced. However, the Government of India is making serious efforts to trace the tourists.

This is believed to be the handiwork of a group calling itself Al-Faran and it has claimed responsibility for

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the abduction. The police suspect the hard-core pro-Pakistani mercenary group — Harkatul Ansar — to be solely responsible for this act. What reinforces this belief is the information provided by the guide who accompanied the foreign tourists. He has told authorities in Kashmir that while kidnappers spoke to him in Urdu, the militants were conversing among themselves in Pashto, the language spoken by Pathans in Pakistan and those from Afghanistan. Among the names given by the kidnappers, they have demanded the release of two Pakistani militants who happened to be the top leaders of Harkatul Ansar — Sajjad Afghani of Rawala Kot in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Mohammad Masud Azhar of Bahawalpur in Punjab. Sajjad is a military commander of Harkat and Masud is its secretary general.

Last September, when some other foreign tourists were kidnapped, the names of these Harkatul Ansar militants had figured in the list that the kidnappers wanted to be released. It may be mentioned that both of them were arrested in February 1994. The Indian Government has made it clear that it will not relent and no militant will be released.

The militant groups of Kashmir have issued statements which indicate that they have no hand in these kidnappings. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference, APHC, and at least three other militant outfits have issued separate statements condemning the kidnapping. They have demanded the release of hostages without delay. In separate statements, banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Al-Fatah, and the People's League have condemned the act and have also asked the captors to release the hostages. It is worth mentioning here that there is complete disunity among the various militant factions in Kashmir.

The Pakistani Government which is being reminded again and again by its own people of saving Karachi has sent abouty 500 Pakistani-trained Harkatul Ansar mercenaries into Jammu and Kashmir during the last few weeks and is shifting its patronage from the local Hizbul Mujahidin to the Rawalpindi-based Harkatul Ansar. The Pakistani game plan appears to be to convert Kashmir into a battleground of fundamentalists.

Daily Links Abductions to Wisner Remarks

BK0907121495 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 8 Jul 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Hostage to Terror"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The kidnapping of four foreigners in the Kashmir valley last Tuesday [4 July] followed by the abduction of four journalists on Friday may be entirely unrelated but nevertheless suggest a certain desperation on part of the terrorists. Curiously enough, the two Americans and two Britons were kidnapped soon after the US Ambassador, Mr Frank Wisner's visit to Jammu and Kashmir and his assertion that the people are tired of separatist militancy. Mr Wisner has also backed the Union Government's plans to hold Assembly election in the State which amounts to a tacit repudiation of the earlier State Department policy of questioning the finality of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India. Both these points could not but have caused discomfort among the separatists, especially those who owe their allegiance to Pakistan, and their armed brigades: Indeed, there have been reports indicating the separatists' surprise over Mr Wisner's statements, not least because it could herald a major shift in Washington's policy on Kashmir.

Seen against this backdrop, it is entirely possible that the foreigners have been kidnapped in response to Mr Wisner's comments and to disprove his assessment of the situation in the Valley. At the same time, it is also possible that the terrorist outfit which is believed to have kidnapped them feels that with foreigners as hostages, it will be better able to negotiate the release of arrested terrorists. Interestingly, the 21 men whose release from prison has been sought belong to terrorist organisations aided and funded by Pakistan. Obviously, the abductors believe that rather than risk the foreigners being harmed, the Government will free the 21 terrorists.

Needless to add, the Government should not even consider the possibility of striking a deal with the abductors. It is time the international community realised the true dimensions of the separatist movement in Jammu and Kashmir. For far too long has the West overlooked the ruthlessness of the terrorists; human rights organisations, even while castigating the Government for imaginary violations, have glossed over the crimes perpetrated by the armed brigands. Hopefully, the kidnapping of the four Westerners as well as four local journalists will bring about a change in their attitude. But all this is no reason for the Government to be complacent: On the contrary, no effort should be spared to locate the men being held hostage and free them before any harm is done. The Jammu and Kashmir administration must act decisively and lose no time—all the agencies of the State should be harnessed for the job. A failure can cause more damage to the authorities than to the abductors.

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Daily Views Motives for Kidnappings

BK0907122095 Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jul 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Desperate Attempt by Militants"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is not just a coincidence that militants in Kashmir had kidnapped four foreign nationals—two American and two British—who were part of a group of eight persons from abroad trekking to the famous Tarsar-Marsar lakes, about 10 km uphill from Pahalgam. A massive search operation is set in motion and as had happened on prior occasions it is possible that they would soon be released. The Prime Minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, had just a few days ago sent a team of central officials to study the internal situation in the State and there have been reports that law and order had vastly improved and militancy was under control. Holding of elections before November was also indicated as a strong possibility. The militants would like to convey the message that they might have been humbled for the time being but they have not been wiped out by taking recourse to this kind of kidnapping which helps to create the impression that they are very much on the prowl. What the militant outfits indulging in such dastardly acts fail to recognise is that they are no more dealing with a government that is not firm and determined to restore a popular government against all odds.

The holding of the four foreign nationals as hostages is also intended to put pressure on international organisations to intervene. The Kashmir administration is fully aware of the game and also knows that a Pakistan mercenary group by the name of Harkat ul Ansar is behind this ugly episode. There was already a demand from the Harkat ul Ansar group for the release of a few jailed detenus and it is just possible that the militants would release the hostages in exchange for them. The authorities will no doubt have to take a stern attitude and not yield to pressure although their first priority is get back the foreign nationals in a safe condition. Anti-Indian elements would also be stepping up their activities to disrupt normal life in the State now that the Governor, Gen. K.V. Krishna Rao, had made a strong plea for holding a poll in the next few months. The arrest of a few leading militants is unlikely to cripple their ability to carry out their sinister plans for creating chaos and the Government will therefore have to pursue a ruthless policy of annihilating the extremists even if the cost of policing the State will become prohibitive.

A silver lining, however, is that the rank of the fanatical extremists is not exactly swelling and this is a measure of the success of the Government's efforts at containing militancy. The armed capabilities of the pro-Pakistani groups which at one time had threatened to change the whole agenda in the State are now more than matched by the striking power of the Indian security forces and, therefore, the Government is emboldened to take a fresh look into the question of initiating a political process that would ultimately see the establishment of a popular government in the tormented State. Kidnappings and hostage-holding could be no more than aberrations and if the militant outfits believe that by such acts they could subjugate the entire administration they will be in for disappointment. There is a vast change in the attitude of the people too towards militants in Kashmir and desperate acts will only invite strong protechve measures on the part of the authorities. The militants have evidently shot themselves in the foot in the kidnapping of the four foreign nationals. The kidnapping incident perhaps has the potential to turn international public opinion in favour of India and the authorities should use all means to nab the culprits and ensure the safety of the hostages by getting them released even as the public have a right to be told how exactly tke Government is going to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Voting Ends in Calcutta; Bomb Blast Injures 7

BK0907132895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 9 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Seventy to seventy-five percent polling has been reported in today's election to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation. Polling was more or less peaceful, barring a few incidents of bomb throwing and intimidation. Seven persons, including a policeman, were injured when a bomb was thrown in central Calcutta. Police opened fire at two places of central Calcutta to disperse violent mobs. More than 125 persons were arrested on charges of proxy voting, initimidation, and bomb throwing. Counting for all the 141 boards of the corporation was taken up soon after the polling ended at 1530.

Radio Reports Election Results

BK1007033895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 10 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Calcutta civic elections, the ruling Left Front has swept through to emerge as the single largest party with 70 seats in the 141-ward Calcutta Municipal Corporation. The Congress-I bagged 66. Of the remaining five wards, two went to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and three to the independents, two of whom were rebel Congress-I candidates. The Congress-I has vastly improved its position as it had only 37 against the Left Front's 96 councillors in the previous board [as heard]. Among the notable winners

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are the outgoing mayor, Mr. Prashanta Chatterjee of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], and the former judge of the Calcutta High Court, Mrs. Padma Khastagir of the Congress-I. The state Congress-I president, Mr. Somen Mitra, said the question of taking support of the BJP does not arise. He said the Congress-I will speak to the independents for support. The Left Front chairman, Mr. Sailen Dasgupta, described the results as below expectations.

The Left Front has secured an absolute majority in the first-ever election to the 23-ward Salt Lake Bidhan Nagar civic body, winning 13 of the 22 wards. The Congress-I won nine wards.

Iran

Editor Views Regional Visit by U.S. Official

NC0907200895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 9 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Yasir al-Za'atirah, chief editor of FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH magazine, by unidentified Tehran radio announcer; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Announcer] In your view, what are the goals and implications of yet another visit to the region by Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process in the Middle East?

[Al-Za'atirah] It is well known that Dennis Ross is a pro-Likud and pro-Zionism member of the U.S. Administration. It is also known that in his political views, he is more extreme regarding a settlement than the more senior U.S. officials, such as President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher. It is known that he often gave advice to the U.S. Secretary of State during his previous shuttle tours of the region to expedite the peace process.

Ross' new tour, in fact, is basically aimed at handling the Syrian track and only marginally concerned with the Palestinian track. The Syrian track is still stumbling and the emphasis on the security arrangements has not sped up the settlement on the Syrian track because the Syrian stance is solid and still insists on total withdrawal in tandem with the security arrangements. The Israeli Labor Party and Rabin want reassurance about the security arrangements before talking of any withdrawal from the Golan. They want to assure the Israeli voters. Ross's tour and the efforts on the Syrian track are intended to help Rabin in the election race by showing the voters that the nature and size of the coming withdrawal from the Golan are not known. They want to convince the Israeli voters that the coming withdrawal from the Golan will not much affect Israel's domestic security.

Ross' tour is aimed at expediting the negotiations over the security arrangements, particularly after the failure of the talks in Washington between Syrian Chief of Staff al-Shihabi and Israeli Chief of Staff Shahaq. Dennis Ross is coming, as is well known, to pressure the Arabs, in this case Syria, to make concessions regarding the security arrangements and installation of the early warning systems, and so on and so forth. This will reassure the Israeli voters and government that the upcoming withdrawal will not pose any danger to Israel's security.

These are the goals of Ross' new tour. Regarding the Palestinian track, Ross' goals are secondary, because the Palestinian negotiator is making concessions on his own and does not need any U.S. pressure.

[Announcer] Official Israeli-Palestinian negotiations will be held in Rome on Wednesday [12 July]. What is the significance of changing the venue?

[Al-Za'atirah] The experience of Palestinian negotiators with secret venues and talks is bitter. It is well known that the clauses of the agreements are written by the Zionist side. The talks are being transferred to Rome to avoid political scandals. The Palestinian and Arab masses will be surprised with worse clauses than the Oslo Agreement. New agreements are worse than previous ones. The Oslo Agreement was worse then the Madrid formula and the first Cairo agreement was worse than the Oslo Agreement and the second Cairo agreement was worse than the first.

The Oslo Agreement basically dealt with security, ensuring security for the Israeli settlements and allowing the redeployment of Israeli forces in a limited area. Peres said that in the first stage the redeployment would involve 3 percent of the West Bank and in the subsequent stage it would involve 18 percent of the West Bank. Certainly the new agreement will be much worse than some people expect. It will divide the Palestinian people to cantons and, as a Fatah opposition figure said, it is a redeployment of the Palestinian people, not the Israeli Army.

The Rome negotiations are expected to result in a miserable agreement. Yasir 'Arafat wants any agreement; he is not bargaining over a continuation of the negotiations and over redeployment, not even ostensibly. He wants to extend some of his powers to the West Bank to show that the Gaza-Jericho First arrangement is not Gaza-Jericho last, but that there are other things in the offing.

[Announcer] Thank you.

[Al-Za'atirah] Thank you and may God bless you.

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Majles Official Interviewed on Current Issues

NC0907072595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, head of the Majles Research Center and Tehran deputy, by an unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [RESALAT] Dr. Larijani, thank you for granting us this opportunity to meet with you. As one of the six major speakers at the conference "Islam and Europe" [which was held in Stockholm in May], please tell us what topics were discussed at the conference and what topics Your Excellency touched on.

[Larijani] In the name of God, the almighty and merciful. The Islam and Europe conference was initiated by the Swedish Government (the Swedish foreign minister) and was a continuation of the policy that Europe has adopted on Islam. I would like to briefly explain that the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and its impact on the world of Islam has placed a real truth before the world: the existence of an extremely profound movement for the revival of Islamic ideas. This movement is not merely a religious movement, but is coupled with political issues, the most important of which is the establishment of new governments on the basis of new legitimacy criteria. It is only natural for the Western world to be sensitive to this issue for various reasons, the most important of which is probably its hegemonistic interests of the past which, in some cases, still continue.

Of course, all of the Western world's relations with the world of Islam are not hegemonistic. Many European countries have links with the world of Islam and they are very interested in these links. In the beginning, probably the United States and Europe wanted to ignore this phenomenon to a certain extent. But today this is an existing fact, and Western politicians cannot ignore it. Therefore, their major question is: How should we confront this phenomenon?! The policy that the United States has adopted is to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran instead of confronting the world of Islam and to adopt a hostile approach toward the Islamic Republic. Of course, the reason they have chosen to confront the Islamic Republic instead of the world of Islam is because of the former's role and impact on the latter. But this is not solely an Iranian phenomenon. It is a phenomenon of the world of Islam.

The politicians in the major European countries, that is, members of the European Union, doubt U.S. policies in both fields, and while admitting the role that the Islamic Republic plays, they first of all believe that they should have a precise approach to the world of Islam in general. Second, they doubt the need for hostile approaches. Therefore, they have adopted the policy of "dialogue" or talks for understanding. This policy initially started with Iran and is now being applied by the EU to the entire world of Islam. In my opinion, Europe's policy is extremely important.

[RESALAT] In what capacity did they invite you?

[Larijani] They invited me as a person who can listen to them and comment on what they say. I think that this policy can be useful and constructive, although it is only at the beginning of the road—since the Americans, whose interests do not lie in reaching understanding with the world of Islam but in confrontations, may obstruct it. I advised the Swedish foreign minister that if the policy of understanding with Islam is well guarded, it will bear fruit.

[RESALAT] Is this policy of dialogue the stand of their politicians, of their intellectuals, or of their governments? In other words, is this policy a state policy or a private policy?

[Larijani] Of course, it was started by the government and it gradually attracted the intellectuals and public to it. One can say that in Sweden now, the intellectuals and public opinion are ready to reach an understanding with the world of Islam, and this was even reflected in their stands on Salman Rushdie. Therefore, this is a new issue which is the outcome of the consolidation of the Islamic movement. In other words, the world today is facing a fact. Therefore, the logical thing to do is to face fact in a constructive and useful manner and to establish relations with it. I consider this to be a sign that the roots of the Islamic movement are becoming stronger.

[RESALAT] You are aware that some monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] have European Parliament deputies sign petitions in support of them. This proves two points. The first is that they support a terrorist group, and the second is that they declare their hostility toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. If Europe has adopted a policy of understanding, what is the reason for such unprincipled behavior?

[Larijani] It is not difficult to explain this phenomenon. In the West—that is, in the United States and Europe—very much is invested in the effort to paint a bad picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the Islamic movement. This effort has been in process from the outset of the revolution until today. This is because, unfortunately, we have not carried out an organized effort to portray the true image of the revolution. Of

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course, the reason for us not having paid as much attention as necessary to this may be the problems that we had to tackle. Therefore, it is only natural for this massive investment in portraying an ugly picture of the Islamic Republic to have been able to create the negative grounds against us.

The signatures collected are not the official stands of any of the parliaments. And it is also not surprising that such signatures are gathered. But when such issues are publicized, the parliaments of these countries issue statements that they have nothing to do with it! In Sweden, the foreign policy commission [of parliament] and some of the people who had signed a letter confessed that they had made a mistake! I think that such signatures are the outcome of the negative atmosphere that has been created and that gradually Europe and the West will inevitably have to adopt a realistic approach to facts. But we will shortly start to see realistic approaches toward us and toward the world of Islam.

At any rate, the outcomes of the policy of dialogue that has started will not become visible overnight. In the same way that the Western way of thinking today is the outcome of 16 years of bombardments of the minds of the people in the world on Islam, it will take some time for the impact of this policy to be seen. Of course, we should also never forget the cultural and political structure of Europe and the United States.

I want to say that instead of relying on changing their views, we should hope that by becoming stronger and by sinking deeper roots, the Islamic movement will be able to encourage the world to adopt a more realistic approach. It is then that we should extend our policy—that is, have a realistic approach toward one and a hostile approach toward the other.

[RESALAT] What were the topics that were discussed at the conference?

[Larijani] The talks at the conference were on how far Islamism should be regarded as extremist and fundamentalist and to what extent it should be regarded as a natural process for social and cultural development. Thus, the first topic of the talks was the phenomenon of the Islamic movement, and the second was the problems that have risen in the world of Islam because of the impact of this phenomenon. From the West's point of view, Islamic movements are tantamount to the establishment of dictatorships, to putting pressure on women and depriving them of their basic rights, to imposing a type of religious censorship on society, and to banning social freedoms. And they regard the Salman Rushdie issue within this context.

The other topic was the problems of the Muslims in Europe and the discrimination against Muslims in Europe—something which is not understandable. And the last topic was that the European politicians want to have friendly relations with the world of Islam, that they should not regard the revival of Islam as a negative phenomenon, and that if the mutual interests of Europe and the world of Islam are ensured, there is also a way for logical relations to exist with the revived world of Islam.

[RESALAT] What was the composition of the participants like?

[Larijani] About 30 to 40 participants were personalities from the world of politics as well as scholars. About 100 were foreign-policy experts from various European countries. Six major speakers addressed the conference. I was one of them.

[RESALAT] What topics did you discuss in your speech?

[Larijani] My discussion was mainly on the fact that the Islamic movement is the outcome of an awakening in the world of Islam and that it is on this basis that the Islamic rule was established in Iran.

I said that the Islamic Government is the most logical and deep- rooted rule that we have in the world of Islam today and that the nature of this government is not only democratic, but that it has also proven to be the most democratic rule in the world of Islam. As for women, the Islamic Republic may have the best record among the regional countries and this is proven by the fact that many women can enter the universities. In other words, a woman becoming a minister in a country does not automatically imply that the situation of women in that country is good. We have invested a great deal so that women can be educated and their participation in society can be increased. Also, I explained that when it comes to freedoms, we do not accept absolute tolerance. I explained that not only we, but many scholars in the West too, disagree with absolute tolerance. Thus, we have seen how they do not tolerate some things and resort to various pretexts such as public decency, public security, and the prevention of social disorder, and how they even prevent a school girl from wearing an Islamic head dress.

I explained how, on the basis of our beliefs, we have various degrees of tolerance. The first degree is tolerance of criticism on the efficiency of the rule, and I told them that this exists in our country to a degree that may not exist in any other Islamic country. This has both an Islamic root—the principle of doing good and shunning evil—and is also based on the right of

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the people to rule and to direct their leaders to the right path. In other words, the government and the system tolerate criticism of their deeds. Not only is this legally and canonically permitted, but it is also implemented.

The second degree of tolerance is on the various deductions on Islam. And in the same way that we show tolerance toward the decrees, toward the understanding of the Koran, and toward philosophical discussions, we are also tolerant even toward some extremist views [on Islam] in our country and grant them the freedom to speak. Therefore, we are tolerant when it comes to understanding Islam.

The third degree of tolerance is on non-Islamic issues. We have very clearly stated in the Constitution that the divine religions are free to express their beliefs. But something which we can not tolerate at all is whatever is against Islam. In countries with a liberal democratic system, a constitution is divine and whoever speaks or acts against the Constitution becomes a target of universal rage. For us, Islam is the source of the Constitution and one of the most divine structures. Therefore, we have no tolerance for anything that is against Islam in our own country.

I then concluded that with this practical structure of tolerance, we do not allow a dictatorship to be established since we criticize the government's behavior, and the religious leader is the strongest backbone. Therefore, the leadership in Iran is actually there to help prevent a dictatorship and to ensure the health of the system. But their idea of a religious government is like the religious governments of Europe's Middle Ages when a number of priests had the affairs of the country in their hands. However, in our system it is the political structures that rule.

One of the scholars at the conference said in his closing speech: The presence of clergymen on the political scene of the Islamic Republic of Iran has not given rise to worthless and baseless arguments. For example, when priests ruled in Europe, the majority of discussions were on paradise and hell and the size [preceding word in English] of the angels. But today's discussions in Iran are on whether an Islamic society can be modern or not, on Islamic economy, and on what Islamic policy and culture are. And all this stems from the rational essence of the Islamic Republic's system.

In view of the vast coverage given by Sweden's media to the conference, I think that the conclusions drawn by those who wanted to know what the problems are were well-intended. Of course, we cannot expect everyone to change their views. I held extensive discussions with Sweden's scholars and politicians and became convinced more than ever before that we should attach importance to the propounding of our views to the world and also that we should invest in this. The world does not know what has happened in Iran and is not acquainted with the structure of the Islamic Republic.

It is the duty of our system to work toward this.

We have reached a stage in which the world has accepted us and wants to establish relations with us. Therefore, if we seize the opportunity, we can disarm and isolate our enemies and do something for their allegations and logic not to have any buyers.

[RESALAT] This policy of dialogue which the West has chosen to follow on the issue of Salman Rushdie is a key issue from our point of view. What has terrified the West today is the principle of decrees issued by a Shiite or Sunni religious scholar and state that something should be or shouldn't be done. Apparently they say that nothing is divine and anyone can say what he has to say. Actually they want to harm the principle of decrees. Do you think that it is correct to enter such a discussion?

Don't you think that in the policy of dialogue with Europe we should try to portray the beauties of the revolution and of Islam and consider the Salman Rushdie issue an irreversible issue?

[Larijani] There are several points as far as this is concerned. The first is that we are not facing, say, a philosophical movement but a cultural-mass media issue. The second is that they have not chosen to pursue only one issue, but three, against us. The first is Salman Rushdie, the second is the nuclear arms issue, and the other is terrorism. We should regard all these realistically and see what policy we have to adopt.

Those who adhere to the policy of antagonism mostly use all these three issues as a pretext in order to tell the world why they should be antagonistic toward Iran. They say that Iran opposes freedom of speech. They say that we want to manufacture nuclear arms, that we are totally against peace, and that we are warmongers, and they vastly propagandize these things in the world! I think that these three are weapons in the hands of others against us. The truths and beauties that lie in Islam are another issue which should be discussed separately in another discussion.

However, we have been successful, up to a certain extent, [in confronting] them so far. Now the policy of antagonism with Iran is an isolated idea even among the seven industrial countries, in Europe, and in other countries. And we should try to totally isolate this policy. I see a bright future and am optimistic that we will be able to acquaint the world with Islam and the essence of the Islamic Republic. We should not regard the Western world as a uniform world. Western societies

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are full of problems, and we should invest in efforts for the return of the feeling of having roots and of spirituality. We do not see the horizon of our efforts ending in Iran or even in solely safeguarding the world of Islam. The letter that His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, sent to Gorbachev actually intended to put an end to their views that we are only speaking about the world of Islam. We are speaking for the world. Therefore, we have to be able to speak to the world.

[RESALAT] A U.S. senator put forth a plan which said that in addition to the U.S. Government's sanctions on Iran, each and every company in the world that has trade relations with Iran should choose between trading with Iran or with the United States. However, he withdrew his words on the eve of Clinton's departure for Canada to participate in the G-7 summit and said in a VOA interview: Since we hope to succeed in this summit, I am temporarily taking back what I said, and if we do not reach any conclusion there, I will once again put forth my plan. In view of the defeat suffered by the Americans in the G-7 summit, do you think that this plan will be proposed once again?

[Larijani] Of course, it is not the first time that Senator D'Amato, who initially put forth this plan, has taken his word back. He has done so a couple of times before and he even has doubts about his previous decision. The approach on Iran by this group of people among the U.S. statesmen is an arbitrary stand which greatly affects the U.S. statesmen, the U.S. nation, and U.S. interests. I find it difficult to believe that all the U.S. statesmen have the same shortsightedness and weak reasoning.

Meanwhile, we have shown in the past 16 years that we can live without the United States and that we can struggle, win, and grow not only without the United States but without any other country. Our enemies today are accusing us of everything—from fundamentalism, to terrorism, and to manufacturing the nuclear bomb. But no one can accuse us of being under the diktat of anyone. In other words, everyone accepts the fact that Iran is an independent country. This independence has borne fruit and, God willing, the time will come for them to see these fruits. Therefore, I am never upset over such words and don't take them seriously. These words may be better for domestic consumption and for confronting the problems in the United States than for abroad.

Our logic is an extremely strong and acceptable logic. Even on the issue of nuclear arms, we have told the statesmen of the world that the world should admit that it is our nation's right to have access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and that the Islamic Republic implements its projects with extreme clarity and openness. This principle of openness is the best guarantee to overcome any suspicions and no country in the region has a clearer stand, policy, or strategy than we. The world should gradually understand these things. I believe that it will not be long before the European governments will start to compete on the construction of nuclear reactors in Iran because it is becoming very clear that Iran neither likes to have nuclear arms nor does it have worries from any direction in which it may want to safeguard itself with nuclear arms. We are so strong that we see no serious threat against us in the region. Those countries in the Middle East that have been created with the strength of U.S. or Jewish force will have this feeling of artificiality forever and will always exist in fear and terror. Therefore, first of all, these plans by D'Amato and other similar plans in the U.S. Congress only weaken the U.S. statesmen's standing and gradually make the world and the U.S. people realize how their politicians think and how much weight their words carry. Second, they are intended more for domestic consumption since U.S. politics and the situation at home are extremely unstable nowadays and it may take a long time for the situation to stabilize. We know how to advance our policies under all circumstances. The world is becoming more and more diversified. It is expanding in some ways and shrinking in other ways. And this is a reality which the U.S. is facing.

Iraq Seeks To Speed Up Velayati's Baghdad Visit

JN0807173695 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Dispatch by Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni from Tehran]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our radio has learned from equivalent Iranian and Iraqi sources that Baghdad decided a few days ago to invite the chief of Iranian diplomacy to visit Iraq to expedite the resolution of the suspended files and to move swiftly toward normalization. The Iranian Foreign Ministry confirmed to our radio that it has received Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf's message to his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati to this effect, adding that it is studying the appropriate timing of the visit.

The Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran, who confirmed to our radio that he conveyed such a message a few days ago, told us that the prisoners file is ready, and he added that both al-Sahhaf and Velayati are expected to close this file in a satisfactory way. Meanwhile, Baghdad is waiting for a satisfactory answer from Tehran regarding its planes kept in Iran since the second Gulf war.

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Political observers in the Iranian capital believe that Baghdad is speeding up Velayati's visit to Iraq, without dispatching an Iraqi delegation to Tehran, as expected, in an attempt to bypass stages on the path of normalization between the two countries which are targeted by the United States. The observers said that normalization has become a mutual need which both countries' leaders are trying to achieve.

Syrian Envoy Addresses Peace Treaty With Israel

LD0907202195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan has underlined that Syria will never sign a peace treaty with Israel unless the Zionist regime completely withdraws from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Speaking to the Persian daily ABRAR, Mr. al-Hasan said that as long as Israeli troops are stationed in the region, the south Lebanon resistance will have indisputable rights to continue its anti-Zionist struggle. Commenting on the objection of Damascus (?and the) Palestinians to the Oslo agreement, Mr. al-Hasan remarked that since such accords failed to meet their demands, the Palestinian nation, therefore, opposes them.

The Syrian ambassador to Tehran further condemned the recent stubborn behavior of the PLO head [Yasir 'Arafat], later describing the damages brought on Palestinian ideals by such attitudes.

Mr. al-Hasan concluded that should 'Arafat change his attitude and adopt the policy of Arab coordination, Syria would approve him.

Bosnian President Calls Rafsanjani, Views Sarajevo

LD0907183495 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, during a telephone conversation with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, explained the critical situation in Sarajevo and its suburbs and briefed the president on the latest developments and political and social situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to the siege of an area within a distance of 150 kilometers from Sarajevo by the aggressive Serb militia, Izetbegovic said: This area has been under siege for the past three years; whereas the UN Security Council has officially declared it a safe haven and the 60,000 defenseless Muslim inhabitants of the area are under heavy artillery bombardment. They are living with difficulty and are desperate.

He criticized performance of the international organizations in Bosnia and said: These organizations do not even respect their own words and do not implement their own decisions to defend the Bosnian people and to halt the Serbs' aggression; and are not seriously committed to their decisions.

He thanked the people and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for their assistance and support.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, during this telephone conversation, condemned the double standard and performance of some western countries and the international forums vis-a-vis the Muslim people of Bosnia.

Referring to the point that the Iranian Government and the people understand the suffering and problems of the oppressed and aggrieved people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for intensifying diplomatic efforts with the help and cooperation of Islamic and philanthropic states of the world to stop the attacks of the Serb aggressors on Muslims.

Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD0707135095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1023 GMT 7 Jul 95

[Second sermon by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

During the past few weeks, since the last time I spoke to you in my sermons, one of the most important issues we have been faced with has been the new aggression which the U.S. has launched against our Islamic revolution and our dear country. Well, you know the details of this issue, the news has covered everything; however, we need to analyse this affair, and this analysis can also guide those who accept the analysis in the future.

The United States had planned to exert serious pressure on Iran. It was certain that it would not be alone in this task; it thought it could drag the world, or at least certain countries, with it on this path. The United States' main aim was to create difficulties for our people through external pressure and to lead our people to despair; and we heard them say that they wanted to sow discord and create some sort of political and ethnic opposition. This is the plan that they had in mind; they have been preparing it for a long time and we saw certain signs that pointed to this plan; and because of our improved intelligence reports, we prepared ourselves for this onslaught.

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Up to now, he [as heard] has tried his utmost but has not gained anything. In fact, since it [economic sanctions] has started, he has been forced to backtrack. This is a very important point: perhaps in U.S. history, it has been unprecedented that the United States hatches a plot against a Third World country and is faced with such difficulties during its very first moves.

The issue should be opened up a bit. This happened both on the international arena and inside our country. The question as to why the United States is doing this is an important one. Of course, the main answer to this question is that the nature of the Islamic revolution is fundamentally incompatible and at odds with U.S. colonialist interests; and they know that so long as this revolution remains in the arena, it is a very complex obstacle standing in the way of their greed and desires.

Another recent development concerns the domestic problems the United States has had to face and about which our people know little. Our media, too, do not cover this topic adequately, though I hope they will do so from now on. Just yesterday, the president of the United States delivered a speech at one of the universities there. He really sounded the alarm bells, listing or implicitly referring to several things, saying that these things are undermining national cohesion and the United States as a superpower. Among the things he mentioned is the serious moral corruption that has enveloped society there and has had a devastatingly bad effect on the young, especially on girls. He talked about narcotics and said that this has turned into an incurable disease for the country. He referred to the insecurities that have emerged as a result of people carrying arms — I do not really know whether he mentioned names or not — but one example of the consequences of this situation is what happened in Oklahoma.

Then there are signs of stagnation in the U.S. economy — now perhaps their decision today concerning the interest rate was a preliminary step toward solve the problem. He also referred to the fragile state of society and the serious disputes between the U.S. Congress and Government. Another thing he did not mention, or perhaps he did but I did not hear, are the difficulties they are facing in their foreign policy.

So U.S. society is really frought with problems. The remarks yesterday were alarming. We know this, and can see that because they have such great domestic problems, they have to focus on something external. This is a traditional policy practiced by the world's statesmen who, under such circumstances, create a problem outside in order to divert public opinion from internal problems. That problem is presented as a world problem. They did this in the past over the issue of Iraq, and this time, they are focusing on Iran and on economic issues at this stage. They thought that if they could wrestle with Iran, bring it down to its knees over economic issues, and create problems for the revolution, they could present this as a victory to their societies, where they have prepared public opinion with propaganda and assistance from the Zionists.

Of course, there is more to this discussion than this, but it cannot be treated fully in this sermon. But these are important as issues: First, the greed of colonialists, and even if this did not exist, they would still have found it difficult to tolerate Iran. Second, there is the question of domestic problems which they have to divert attention from. Of course, they also raise the issue elsewhere — one day they go for China, another day they quarrel with Japan or Germany — you see right now how they construct these arguments every day. Of course, they do have difficulties in these places just as they have in Iran. But at this stage and contrary to their own predictions and hasty conclusions, they have been very unsuccessful.

In practice, at the international level, no country except Israel has supported the U.S. project, and this is incredible. Many of the countries that formally opposed the U.S. proposal did so both in practice and official announcement. This was really interesting for our history and should be a lesson to the United States. Japan said no; so did Germany, Turkey, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, the Arabs of the southern Persian Gulf region, France, others — they all said that the United States was bullying; there was no logic or reason behind its action.

The important thing we did here was to show the world how weak the U.S. logic is. It would have been possible for us to act with slogans and influence the world, saying we are this way, we do this and that; but that would not have been right. The right thing to do was to find out what the United States wanted. What evidence did it have to accuse us of possessing nuclear weapons, to accuse us of terrorism, and so forth? Where is the evidence? What are you trying to say? Why did you [United States] do this, who as a big global power has responsibility for world peace more than all other countries? If the world were secure, you would also benefit. It would be wrong for a big government to create tension in the world for no reason.

It is important to bring this point home: They deal with international issues illogically, hastily, unfairly, and rhetorically. This has happened in the world, despite all the propaganda tools they possess. Part of it was done by using their own media and they heard it.

Take a country like Turkmenistan to our north. It is so disgraceful that the United States says to them clearly:

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You do not have the right to lay your gas pipeline through Iran. What does that mean? One country sells gas, and another country buys it. A better way has been found for the pipeline to go through. Why do they interfere and say, do not put it this way, go another way. Turkmenistan does not consider it in its interests to put it another way.

The world is conscious of this kind of bullying today. Everyone has judged and come to the conclusion that the United States is a bully, talks illogically, and cannot prove its point.

U.S. companies were supposed to grant loans to Turkmenistan to lay the pipeline that way, but then did not. That small country wanted to solve its own problem. It came and signed an agreement with us, and said, you take the gas from us. The same thing that happened with the gas pipeline has happened again now. We have pipelines in the east, in the west, and everywhere. We take Turkmen gas and use it in the north. And Turkey, the U.S. ally in NATO, comes and buys gas from us, and we give our gas to Turkey.

The same thing has happened with Pakistan and Armenia. That means that our country's valuable geographical position — of which the United States was jealous, and so opposed the laying of the pipeline — is usable even without the pipeline. Our transit charges are a little better than the tariff. The price difference between where we take delivery and where we deliver is a lot more. That is a clear defeat for U.S. policies. [crowd chants]

Then there is a country like Russia. Russia considers itself a big country like the United States, with nuclear power and other technology like, like space technology. Then another country comes and dictates to it what to sell to whom and what not to sell to whom. Who would yield to bullying, except a servant, a slave, or a puppet? The United States treats other countries as puppets. It angers the people. The result of the arguments is that the United States, which raises the issue of the new world order today and wants to impose itself as the head of that order, relies on an unreasonable and bullying and interfering thesis.

That is a very significant result. Just think, it would have been impossible for us to show that characteristic of the United States to the world, or show our suppression by the United States with our ordinary propaganda, like seminars, speeches, and so forth. The United States came and got involved in the matter. Today even the U.S. people themselves regard as totally illogical the U.S. Government's action and its expressions of so much hatred, its grudges, and its mistreatment of a fledgling revolution and an independent nation. That is a great achievement.

Regarding domestic issues: Primarily, alertness must be preserved. We must continue what we have started, so that they do not poison international public opinion against us and say Iranians are adventurers and saboteurs, and nurture terrorists. It has come to light that they themselves are whatever they say about Iran, because the examples they have and those they claimed about us cannot be compared. They are making claims like terrorism and so forth against us while we are mourning the anniversary of the shooting down of our airbus and the martyrdom of about 300.

In the country the result was quite the opposite. They intended to put pressure on Iran this way. As I have said, their aim was to separate the people from the government, for the people to suffer economic pressure. They lost out by not buying oil from and selling goods to Iran. They did it to harm us, to put economic pressure on our people. The exact opposite happened. Our people became more alert. They realized that those who consciously or unconsciously indulge in economic sabotage are serving the United States. The people's attitude toward them became more serious. In addition, they saw a clear threat facing them, that a superpower has raised its sword to weaken our economy. They all prepared themselves to defend and take appropriate reaction. That appropriate decision — of course, if the U.S. issue had not come about it would still have been the same decision, but it happened at that time — was made which bore results, and we saw that all of their hue and cry and propaganda were foiled. Some truths came to light, and I shall explain those important truths to you now.

We kept telling the U.S. that following the implementation of its first five-year development plan, Iran had become immune to boycotts [preceding word in English] and sanctions and that boycotts and sanctions could not have any serious effect on this country. We know what we have achieved in our country. We know about the shortages during the Taghut [rule of the toppled Shah] when the United States used to rule this country. We also know what we have achieved. We are aware of the infrastructural work, production, production capacity, the raw material we used to import and are now producing domestically, the forces we have trained, the capable managers we now have, and the extensive economic capacity the first five-year development plan has created providing water, electricity, schools, postal services, communication, roads, and hygiene for villages which are the production centers of our country. We are aware that we have boosted hope in the country's villages and that we have paved the way for them. We have the facts and figures for these.

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The Americans either do not know about these works, which is not impossible because their information is badly distorted, or they pretend they do not know. The facts, however, have become somewhat clear.

We are not exaggerating in the slightest when we say that our economy improved after the U.S. boycott. We know what we are talking about when we say this. The national solidarity that we were after, the national unity that we were after — and the U.S. wanted the exact opposite, they wanted to destroy our unity — became stronger, our solidarity was strengthened from the very first moment of the boycott. We illustrated this strengthened unity to the world in our visit to Azarbaijan Province.

Not that this was new for us. We see such scenes every day, and we have contacts with the people. I have been to Kermanshah during the past few months. I have been to Sistan va Baluchestan Province and to Khuzestan Province, and all these areas are border provinces. I will not mention my other trips because people may have forgotten, although these scenes cannot be forgotten that easily.

In our last trip, which was to Azarbaijan, the people showed their solidarity and their love for the system and the revolution. If the Americans see just 10 percent of what we saw, they will conclude that this society is united to a great extent. It is so strong, our national unity and solidarity is so strong, that these plots to weaken and destroy the economy will not lead to anything except the people becoming more vigilant. [passage omitted]

We have initiated a huge project for the irrigation of dry farming areas in all those provinces with dry, hilly land. God willing, you will see in the coming months what a great move that will be. Essentially because of the U.S. move we have brought the project forward because it concerns our foodstuffs. We have 7 million hectares of dry-farming land. If we turn them into irrigated land every hectare will yield three tonnes more of produce. We can gain 20 million tonnes more grain from this. We have embarked on extensive action for that purpose so that the United States realizes that Iran is not to be put under an economic embargo. There is such potential here. Much of that land has rivers running nearby, and taking water to them is not difficult. [passage omitted] Azarbaijan did notice its poverty but sees its industry and cheerfulness today. It sees the great freeways that used to be wishes but are now being swiftly constructed. Why should these people not be loyal? That was their aspiration, here is their life now, and this is their future. They see what the revolution is doing for them. That is why they are so loyal. How can such a nation be made distant from the revolution. The United States has Cuba next door. It failed to defeat it despite all the pressures and sanctions. Now it hopes to defeat Iran with all its greatness, with all that oil, with all that gas, with such people and such ideology. It is obvious that this is a mistake. One or two years ago this same secretary of state — there was someone else, another secretary of state — said that they want to irradicate the Iranians as a nation. [sentence as heard] Well, when they have such a notion about Iran shows that they do not know Iran, Iran's position, circumstances, people, revolution, and other things.

As an official who is aware of the people's situation, I must sincerely thank our alert, intelligent people who, whenever they sense the threat of the enemy's plots, come to the arena more vigilantly and courageously. [passage omitted] I believe that the strength of the Islamic revolution is too much for the U.S. to undermine. Thank God their efforts backfired. We hope that in the future the U.S. put aside any thought of such adventurism, God willing. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

Offical Addresses Embezzlement in Friday Sermon

LD0807165295 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1347 GMT 8 Jul 95

[Second sermon of Friday prayers delivered by Ayatollah Ebrahim Amini-Najafabadi, deputy speaker of the Assembly of Experts and lecturer at Qom Seminary, in Qom on 7 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The issue I want to refer to is the trial of those involved in the embezzlement of billions of tomans from the Bank-e Saderat-e Iran. This is a truly painful incident for those who feel pain. No one could have expected such a thing. A group which has become a gang, which behaved like a gang, stole large amounts from the treasury and public funds in the course of this period. The characteristics of this case are, first, that they stole a massive amountm — several billions, there are various sums involved, I am not sure — in any case the figure is several billion, and you yourselves know what this means; indeed, we do not even understand what a billion means. They stole this from the treasury, from the bank, the people's money. This is really incredible considering the circumstances and the times, when the Islamic Republic has been established, inviting people to be good. When I heard about it I was really shocked, and the same goes for everyone.

People are seriously concerned and want to know what has happened. How did this take place; how could these people steal so much from public funds under the nose of inspectors and others, without anyone realizing it at the time. This will always worry people. People are

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concerned about this trial since this is an incident which draws the attention of people inside and outside the country. Even our enemies are following the case and are watching to see what will happen.

People have been waiting for this trial to begin and, thanks be to God, it has. I am thankful that they are holding an open trial so that the people may understand what it is all about. What I should like to say is that our people are following this incident with interest. It is an incident which they will not easily ignore — they are watching to see what will happen; they are watching the trial, the behavior of the judges, and everything else.

Our dear people's expectation from the esteemed judicial system is that, in the first instance, all those who are involved in this case should be summoned to the court, since their trial may lead to the discovery of more information. When they come to court for their trial, the esteemed judges should, with utmost firmness and care, ensure that no one is deprived of their rights, that no one's rights are abused, and that no one is wronged. The judges should base their judgments on justice, and take extreme care to mete out the right fine to each offender.

Some of these people are big names — people expect those who are big names to be severely condemned and to get their just deserts. There should be no concessions.

This is no ordinary event, it is no ordinary plunder. It is an economic conspiracy, it is treason against the people, and treason against the system, under the circumstances. Therefore, people expect the maximum sentence for those who are big names. We hope that the esteemed judges — and here I must praise them and their work once again — will, with utmost wisdom, understand the situation and act in a way which will satisfy the people, which means to satisfy God, and ensure that this should be a lesson to others. As I said, people have an interest in this case, the newspapers write about it, people read newspapers and they realize what is what. Our people are alert. We hope, God willing, that this case will end well and in the interest of Islam. [passage omitted]

Daily Reports on Exports to Greece

95LA0227E Tehran RESALAT in Persian 15 Apr 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Tehran, IRNA—The value of Iranian exports to Greece reached 68.26 billion drachma (equivalent to $304 million) from Dey 1372 through Shahrivar 1373 [22 December 1993-22 September 1994].

According to reports from Athens, the National Bureau of Statistics of Greece made this announcement and added: Of the total Iranian exports to Greece in this period, about 67.55 billion drachma was in oil and certain oil products and the next level consisted of vegetables, textiles, nonmetal minerals, and road and other vehicles.

The value of Greek exports to Iran during the same period was 1.96 billion drachma or about $7.8 million. Greek exports to Iran consist mostly of certain oil products, plastic material, chemicals, paper, iron, steel, nonferrous metals, industrial machines, electric generators, electric machines, scientific equipment, etc.

Article Addresses Growth in Exports

95LA0262A Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 May 95 p 3

[Article by 'Ali Rezvani Moqaddam: "Iran's Exports Grow by 13 Percent"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran — On the 13th anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, in a press and televised interview here yesterday the Managing Director of the Ports and Shipping Organization, Mohammad Madad, said that because of the facilities the organization has provided there was a 13 percent growth in Iranian exports during the Iranian year 1373 [1994].

Iranian non-oil exports include ironware, cotton, mine and chemical materials etc, he said. The Khorramshahr Port covers 150,000 acres of open area, an 1100-meter long pier 130,000 meters of storage and 4,000 office buildings, is a port with more exports than imports. The loading and unloading rate in this port is over 20,000 tons.

Among the facilities the organization has provided are two great vacuum towers in Imam Port which reduce the time of unloading a ship considerably: giant cranes, mechanization of the ports and special managing expertise.

He said the demurrage (the compensation paid for detention of a ship unloading) rate has minimized during last year because of the great cranes and vacuum towers.

Gigantic ships with the capacity of 84,000 tons can dock Imam Port and by means of vacuum towers and great cranes they are unloaded in minimal time. The towers can unload over 10,000 per day, he said.

In the past time by means of facilities and organization has provided, the owner of goods could catch over 3.5 million dispatches (the money paid if unloading process would finish before the determined time).

Iran had 5 million tons of exports in last Iranian year 1373, an increase of 13 percent over the previous year.

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Encouraging exporters there is 75 percent discount in the tariffs rate plus the facilities they can use during loading and unloading process, Madad said.

New Price Set for Bread in Esfahan

95LA0271G Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Esfahan (IRNA)—Based on the announcement of the Flour and Bread Council of Esfahan, the price of every loaf of "taftun" and "lavash" bread in this province, with a 5-rial [R] increase, was announced at R20.**

The new price of bread was discussed and agreed on in a council meeting on Thursday in the presence of the deputy governor general for planning and members and representatives of the Bakers Union at the Governor General's Office of Esfahan.

Price of Rice Drops 'Considerably' in Mashhad

95LA0271K Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Mashhad (RESALAT Correspondent)—Following the announcement of distribution of rice at suitable prices by the deputy minister of commerce, the price of rice in Mashhad dropped considerably.**

Our correspondent reports that following the announcement of the deputy minister of commerce regarding the distribution of rice at coupon and cooperative prices, the price of rice in Mashhad dropped up to 700 rials [R] per kilogram.

It is interesting that in the past several days, the level of demand for rice has declined by about 30-40 percent.

Price of Wheat Reportedly Set at 300 Rials

95LA0271F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 9 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Ilam (IRNA)—The deputy director of the Rural Cooperatives Organization of Ilam Province said: The guaranteed purchase price of a kilogram of wheat in the 1373-1374 [1994-1995] agricultural year, with a 40-rial [R] increase compared to the previous year, was set at R300 by the Economic Council.**

Heshmatollah Sepidkar added: The surplus wheat of the farmers will be purchased throughout the county with a 4-percent of useful decline and a 2-percent of non-useful decline (standard) at R300 per kg. [sentence as published]

Guaranteed Purchase Price of Wheat Rises

95LA0272C Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Affairs Division—The Economic Council in its recent meeting raised the guaranteed purchase price of wheat.**

According to the Public Relations Office of the Plan and Budget Organization, considering the price of fertilizers and pesticides and other existing conditions, the guaranteed price of wheat this year is set at 330 rials per kilogram.

Daily Reports on Rice Sales From Thailand

95LA0272F Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 May 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Tehran (IRNA)—Thailand opposed the increase in Iranian oil purchases at 20,000 barrels per day and considered this to be due to the increasing trade deficit with Iran, which has suffered from embargoes, as well as the problems of refining Iranian oil.**

Thai Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon said on Friday [26 May]: Iran reasserted its previous commitment to buy 400,000 tons of Thailand rice annually.

He added: In exchange, Thailand will keep its promise to purchase 15,000 barrels of Iranian crude oil daily.

Pakistan

Government Condemns 'Reprehensible' Kidnapping

BK0807090795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 8 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Government of Pakistan has expressed serious concern over the press reports regarding the kidnapping of two British and two U.S. nationals in the Indian-held Kashmir.

An official statement issued in Islamabad today said Pakistan is opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and condemns all acts of kidnapping regardless of their motivation. The statement said the present reprehensible act appears to be the work of forces which aim to malign the Kashmiris and to discredit their popular movement. The Government of Pakistan has reiterated that it is the responsibility of the Indian Government, whose forces are occupying the state and grossly violating the human rights of its innocent people, to take appropriate measures to ensure the security and safety of all visitors to the Indian-held Kashmir.

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Daily Views U.S. Denial of PRC Missile Sale

BK1007040795 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 9 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "A Baseless Allegation"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A US State Department spokesman has categorically stated that no concrete evidence has been made available to the United States regarding the sale of M-11 missiles by China to Pakistan. This official denial has been prompted by a recent report in the Washington Post quoting an unnamed intelligence source that 'crates" [quotation marks as published] of the Chinese missiles had been stored at a base in Pakistan. Spokesman Nick Burns said at a briefing that the US government had not determined, based on the information available, whether or not the reported action by China constituted a violation of either the US sanctions law or China's international commitments under the MTCR [Missle Technology Control Regime]. Earlier, a New York Times story, again quoting a mysterious unnamed source, had claimed that the missiles had been in Pakistan since 1992! China and Pakistan have meanwhile denied the wild and baseless allegation. The question arises: why have all these anti-Pakistan stories suddenly started appearing in the Jewish-controlled American print and electronic media? If the missile spares were indeed shipped to Pakistan in 1992, why did the mysterious source choose to remain silent over the issue for three long years.

There appear to be primarily two reasons for this mystifying spurt in anti-Pakistan propaganda. First, this campaign, which is obviously inspired by the strong, Indian lobby in Washington, is a part of New Delhi's diversionary strategy to take the world's attention away from its own massive missile programme. It has already developed a vast array of deadly missiles since it embarked on technology research in this field way back in the early 1960s. These missiles include the surface-to-surface Prithivi with an effective range of 250 kilometres; surface-to-air Trishul; anti-tank Nag missile which is equipped with an infra-red target seeker; and surface-to-surface Aakash which is capable of hitting incoming targets including aircraft and missiles. And lastly the dreaded Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) Agni with an effective range 2,500 kilometers, the Indian scientists are already engaged in research to double its existing range to 5,000 kilometres. This ICBM will then have vast regions including parts of China, many Central Asian states, the Indian Ocean, parts of the Middle East and, of course, South Asia within its reach. In order to achieve its ambitions in the field, New Delhi has doubled the allocation for its space-cum-missile programme in the eight five-year plan form Rs. 1,804 crore to Rs. 3,500 crore. Obviously, this Indian-inspired disinformation campaign in the US electronic and print media is directly linked to the current moves in the US Congress to ease the Pressler sanctions against Pakistan and to restore its economic aid and release a part of the military equipment which Islamabad has paid for. It is high time the US Administration saw through these Indian tricks and assisted Pakistan — a long-time, trusted ally against militaristic Indian designs.

Saddam Sends 'Special Message' to Leghari

BK0907145395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The special envoy of President Saddam Husayn, Mr. (Ahmad Murtaza Ahmad al-Zuheiry), called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari in Islamabad today and delivered to him a special message of the Iraqi president. On this occasion, the president said that Pakistan, which has a sensitive and strategic location at the crossroads of Middle East, Central Asian Republic and South Asia, could play a very important role for peace and stability in the region. He emphasized that there was a need to have further understanding and cooperation amongst the Muslim countries. He added that Pakistan feels sorry and sympathetic for the sufferings of the Muslims in Indian-held Kashmir, Bosnia- Herzegovina, and the Middle East.

The Iraqi envoy thanked the government and people of Pakistan for providing food and medical assistance to Iraq.

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